



The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

organ of the international brigades



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OUR PEOPLE'S ARMY PREPARED TO MEET FRANCO'S FOREIGN FASCIST TROOPS

The following is an official statement on the present military situation in face of the impending fascist attacks made by the Central Estado Mayor of the Ministry of National Defense of the Spanish Republican Army to the Spanish people just before the Teruel offensive.

On the 20th of October Gijón was evacuated. Thus ended the fighting in the ancient principedom of Asturias. The rebels, who were in Villaviciosa, were delayed forty-eight hours in occupying the city, where they met no resistance. The Franco offensive has not yet started against the Government's lines in the East, the South or the Center. The loss of the North was due, as no one can deny to the policy of "non-intervention" and to geographical destiny.

The fascists, in their desire to increase their territorial, moral and industrial advantages so as to gain favor with the democratic chancelleries, concentrated on the North. From April to October they covered themselves with the blood of the Basques, the Asturians and the people of Santander.

For eight months, except for an episode like that at Albarracín, the defense has been maintained in Andalucía, in La Mancha, in Extremadura, in the Center and in Aragón. The enemy put all effort into the occupation of the northern coast. Have they done well? In a military sense, no. The martyrdom of the North gave the Republic an intermission, an opportunity which has served to organize its army and regulate its rear.

Today the rear obeys the Government fully and the army has reached authentic efficiency.

We write this commentary at the end of November. We compare the existing situation with the state of affairs a year ago, and it permits us to be optimistic.

In November, 1936 the Govern-



THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY, no longer the weaponless and poorly clothed militiamen of the early days of the war. Now they are part of a highly trained and technical Republican Army.

ment was moved to Valencia, as a first step toward Barcelona. Madrid was in the war zone and seemed to lack the elements for defense. An open city, it was attacked from the south and from the east, and was in grave peril. To its outskirts had fallen back the remnants of the militia columns which since September had been driven back from Talavera to Getafe, from Peguerinos to Boadilla. Their bravery and personal resourcefulness were no match against material superiority.

A chaotic militia, arranged on lines of political or trade union loyalty, devoid of leadership or seasoning, lacking even cartridges — such an army could not resist the shock troops of Franco, the Moors and Foreign Legionnaires, supported by Italian and German aviation and large caliber artillery, with armored cars, tanks and automatic arms.

The truth is that it cannot be understood how the enemy had

been held off for two and a half months. Madrid seemed doomed on the night General Miaja opened the sealed envelope left behind by the man who was then Prime Minister. The next morning the Committee of Defense held its first meeting and drew up an affidavit. This was later made public and it reveals that all Madrid had for its defense consisted of six machine guns in good use, three hours' of ammunition, one hundred cases of Mauser cartridges, and the remainder of six militia columns which, since Talavera, had known nothing but retreat and defeat.

Never, it can now be said, were the rebels more certain of victory. Why did they not enter Madrid? How did they fail to take advantage of those days to strike the fatal blow to the Republic? Some day it will be known. One thing is certain; the fascists lacked the daring that Madrid possessed. The defenders knew how to be heroes, and raised a war-cry, a watch-

word, which became a slogan that was carried out to the letter. "No Pasaran!"

Bismarck speaks frequently of the imponderable elements which decide battles. Clausewitz, in his classical book on war, points out that between theory and execution comes the friction of reality. The imponderable elements have worked in our favor for a year. The friction with reality operates on the side of legitimate causes.

The experiences of yesterday should be the basis of the expectations of tomorrow. Today we have become a strategic power, economically and politically, and entirely homogeneous. We are familiar with offensives; we know not only how to resist them, but also how to make them. Naturally, we cannot discuss the plans of the Army. Facts will speak for themselves at an opportune time.

Concerning the designs of the enemy, the reports are numerous and contradictory. Will they attack through Huesca toward Lerida? Through Teruel toward Castellón? Through Sigüenza toward Guadalajara? Through Arganda toward Alcalá de Henares? Toward Pozoblanco? Toward Jaén? Toward Almería?

Will they combine two attacks at once? Will they undertake a grand series of operations, like the one they followed in the North? Will they make a series of feints to confuse us? We know that a large number of their effectives of the Northern front were immediately brought to the Eastern and Center fronts. We know also that Italian, German and Moroccan contingents are still arriving in Spain, with large quantities of war material. We know that the policy of "non-intervention" continues to cause us enormous injury.

But we also know that we have finally built an Army.

SALUD to all, from the XVth BRIGADE

Major MERRIMAN, Chief of Staff



DORAN, Brigade Political Commissar



Capt. DUNBAR, Chief of Operations



After a year of hard-fought and gloriously-won battles on the fronts of Jarama, Brunete and Aragon, the Fifteenth International Brigade spends Christmas in the front-line trenches.

Americans, British, Canadians, Irish — and their Spanish comrades — man their trenches this Christmas-tide playing their part in the war for the freedom of the people of Spain and of the whole human race.

From the front-line they send greetings to their comrades at

Lt. Col. COPIC,
Commanding the
XVth Brigade

home—their comrades through whose solidarity victory over Fascism will be achieved and a new era of peace and goodwill ensured.

No peace until victory; no goodwill until the peoples are freed; that is our Christmas Message, our New Year's resolve.



From the BRITISH BATTALION

The men of the British Battalion, many spending their second successive Christmas at the front, send revolutionary greetings to the British working-class and to all the progressive parties who support them in their struggle in arms against fascism.

We hail the national re-awakening which is finding expression in the great Labour campaign for the people of Spain. We urge on all democrats, and in particular on the British working-class to give that campaign their fullest support. Such united action in conjunction with the valour of the Spanish Republican Army—in whose ranks we are proud to serve—will hasten the victory for which so many British and other comrades have given their lives.

May the coming New Year be one of world-wide solidarity in the struggle against Fascism so that next Christmas shall find the people of Spain enjoying the era of peace and freedom for which they are making such great sacrifices.

From the LINCOLN-WASHINGTON BATTALION

The volunteers of the Lincoln Washington Battalion, composed of men from every State of the Union, Cuba and South America, send the Season's Greetings and their best wishes to their families, friends, trade unions and organizations, as well as the entire people of the United States.

Resisting with their armed might the combined onslaught of Franco and the Italian and Nazi invaders they are fighting in the best American traditions to maintain democracy and save Spain from the barbaric aggression of international fascism.

Thanking all their friends and well-wishers for their unstinted aid, support and solidarity, they pledge to fight to their last drop of blood against barbaric fascism—the arch enemy of civilization and humanity.

Proud of their glorious tradition forged on the battlefields of Jarama, Brunete and Aragon they intend to carry on the fight to a victorious conclusion so that next Christmas may find Spain a land of freedom, peace and good will towards men.

From the MACKENZIE-PAPINEAU BATTALION

The Canadian volunteers in Spain, one thousand strong, wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the Canadian people back home.

The Canadian Mackenzie-Papineau-Battalion, together with American and British in the XV (Anglo-American) Brigade is presenting an invincible front to oppose the traitor Franco and Mussolini's and Hitler's fascist invading troops.

Strong and united with the Canadian people in their love for peace, freedom and democracy the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion forms the spearhead of the Canadian people in the fight against international fascism in Spain.

Fascism is a menace not only to Spain, but it is a deadly enemy of anything that represents humanity, progress and enlightenment—it is out to destroy civilization and plunge the world into chaos and mass slaughter. In fighting for a free, democratic, victorious Spain the Canadian volunteers are defending with their lives the happiness and future of their family, friends and the people of Canada as well.

Forward to victory! This Christmas finds us in the trenches, but we are confident that with the continued aid and support of the Canadian people we will celebrate next Christmas at home rejoicing with our people in the victory of a free and democratic Spain.



THE SEASON'S COMPLIMENTS

From the
SPANISH COMRADES
in the XVth. Brigade

Los camaradas españoles de la XV Brigada Internacional se unen a sus hermanos internacionales enviando un ferviente saludo a los pueblos democráticos del mundo.

Estamos seguros de que con vuestra ayuda en los campos de batalla aquí en España, y con vuestra solidaridad en nuestros propios países, el nuevo año será un año de victoria, y en las próximas Navidades España se encontrará libertada de la tiranía fascista.

From Frank Ryan on behalf of the
IRISH COMRADES:
in the XVth. Brigade

Nodlaig fé shéan do Ghaedheala, agus Aith-Bhliain fé shonas agus fé shiocháin!

Sin guidhe na n-Eireannach atá ag caitheamh na Nodlag annso, don tarna uair, i láthair an chatha, ag troid i gcoinnibh na tiorántachta agus ar son siochána.

Thar a gcionn uile bheirim buidheachas do gach n-aon agaibh atá ag cabhrú linn. Ach an chabhair sin a neartú agus a leathnú bainfidh an buadh amach, agus gealfaidh Aith-Bhliain na Saoirse ins an Spáinn, agus ar fuaid an domhain.



Prolinnias O Riain.

*The man on guard
Thinks "Back at home they'll drink my health this year,
And someone will be asked to say a word
About the Christmas I'll be having here.
Then, I suppose, they'll sober down a minute.
Well, and what's in it?
I don't miss coloured lights and Christmas trees
So long as I'm where company is good;
To be among a bunch of men like these
Makes up for what you miss in drink and food."
The soldier winks at half a moon. His feet
Shuffle an outline to the tune he's humming;
He thinks "The day we get those fascists beat,
There's going to be a merry Christmas coming."*

On WHOSE SIDE is the GOODWILL?

The spirit of Christmas festival is far older than the calendar of the Christian church. This is the time when everybody feels the temptation to gaiety, whether or not it gets him. This is the time when troubles are forgotten — the sort of troubles it is possible to forget.

In a country at war, all troubles are sunk into one. The Spanish people have mobilised their time and powers to win the Civil War. They neither can nor will forget it.

When Christmas of 1936 came round, a trained and well-equipped fascist army stood at the gates of Madrid, halted almost by enthusiasm alone. Now, a year later, we have gained their weapon of efficiency, but they have not gained our weapon of morale. We are fighting dispirited men.

What sort of a Christmas will the fascist soldier get? Enough drink, perhaps, to soften the uncomfortable realities out of his head for a night and make it sore the next morning. Real pleasure has no chapter in the fascist book. That story is being written now in Spain and China, not in terms of goodwill. The unhappy conscript will get nothing more than a moment of forgetfulness.

"On earth, peace and goodwill towards men." So the Christian peoples will sing in their churches. But there will be an uncomfortable feeling that the spirit of goodwill is not so universal today as it might be. Who is destroying the Christmas spirit?

Hungry and oppressed families in all countries of the world but one will answer that together, and the sound will be loud enough to break through the concert of Christmas hymns. The beast is abroad. Already he has three wars to his credit, each bigger than the last. Some, like the simpleton who stared at a hippopotamus and remarked "There isn't such an animal", still refuse to believe their eyes. Only the courage and resolution of the anti-fascist armies saves them from being swallowed by the beast that is not there.

We who spend Christmas of 1937 in Spain may miss some of the luxuries our friends will have at home, but we shall share more than family sentiments. We share with the people of Spain a common purpose and a spirit warmer than burning logs. It may prove that we are taking part in one of the most significant and momentous celebrations in the world's history.



East and West, men of goodwill have answered the call to arms against international fascism. Upon their victory will rest the triumph of peace on earth.



THIS FLAG WAS PRESENTED TO THE
BRITISH BATTALION OF THE FIFTEENTH
BRIGADE BY THE WORKERS OF LONDON

A review of the present world scene

The Fascist states are coming more and more into the open. Their actions brand them more and more plainly as the deadly enemies of collective security and world peace. The Berlin-Rome-Tokio triangle is continuing the policy of the strong hand and the accomplished fact, which has hitherto been so successful with the "democratic" Governments. And up to the present the latter have not made the decisive joint stand which would checkmate the "Holy Anti-Bolshevik Alliance".

The key piece in the desperate game was and is the British Government, and this Government is acting in such a way as to arouse fears that in certain circumstances the Fascist triangle might become a reactionary square.

NYON — AND AFTERWARDS

In entering the Nyon Agreement the "National" Government had taken at least half a step towards collective security. At Geneva Eden joined forces with Delbos in pledging to Spain that further resistance on Italy's part to the withdrawal of troops would be met by drastic action. Then came a change for the worse—possibly not unconnected with the results of the Bournemouth Labour Party Conference: the support for the Government's arms policy, etc. British pressure prevented France from opening the Pyrenees frontier. On the Non-Intervention Committee Britain made a move to grant belligerent rights to Franco. This was effectively checked by the firm stand of the Soviet delegate, but Franco's belligerent rights are still being wat-

ched over with loving care. On December 15th Eden stated that belligerent rights will be granted to both parties when the Non-Intervention Committee is satisfied that progress has been made in the withdrawal of volunteers. The Spanish Government's attitude to this question is well known: acceptance of withdrawal on condition that it is not unilateral withdrawal and is carried out on a proportional basis. However, in view of Franco's not unnatural reluctance to continuing the war against the Spanish people with the forces of Spanish nationality at his disposal—even should the Sultan of Morocco's subjects assume Spanish nationality in the eyes of the non-intervention gentry—this announcement, taken at its face value, opens up vast horizons of delays.

Having met with obstacles in this direction, the British Government acted on its own and proceeded to exchange agents with the traitors. Franco's official communique stated that this was much more important than the recognition of belligerent rights since it implied "the recognition of sovereignty".

On November 9th, just after Italy's entry into the Anti-Comintern Pact, the British Prime Minister made his Guildhall speech in which he made gratuitous overtures to the "two great powers now so closely associated in what is known as the Berlin-Rome axis" and expressed his Government's desire for "a basis of mutual friendship and understanding".

On November 12th, the Halifax mission was announced. That visit to Germany turned on the Central European question, and Halifax was faced with two fundamental demands: a plebiscite in Austria, and autonomy for the German minority in Czecho-Slovakia.

THE "SAFETY VALVE"

The British ruling-class is pursuing the policy of the safety valve. The aim is to conciliate Germany and postpone her colonial demands by a deal in Central Europe. With this scheme Britain hopes to weaken the Berlin-Rome axis—thereby making Italy more amenable to British ideas regarding the Mediterranean. She is hoping also to use Germany's influence with Japan to arrive at a compromise in the Far East. This process is described by the "Tim-



THE CHINESE CAVALRY

es" as an effort to turn the German drive for expansion into "previously prepared channels".

In return for these concessions Hitler, of course, would coo like the dove of peace in person. The British Government would carefully conceal the debit side of the deal, and would be assisted more than a little by the attitude of those Liberal and Labour people who are in even worse case than the Bourbons, for not only have they learnt nothing but they have remembered nothing; they see a remedy for all international evils in Germany's return to the League and never stop to ask themselves on what terms or to what kind of a League, or how far Hitler's performance will be removed from Hitler's promise. The "National" Government, if it saw fit, could then go to the electorate at an early date, while the forces of progress are still disunited and unmobilised, and pose as the saviour of peace in Western Europe.

The game is a dangerous one from the British imperialist viewpoint, and there appears to be a split in the Cabinet on the line to be followed. One group is in favour of trying to break Italy away from Germany by means of bribes, and the other group favours the formation of a West European bloc of Germany, Italy, France and Britain. Hitler would be allowed a free hand in the East and, probably, at least the promise of some colonial satisfaction in a more or less distant future. In return he would give a guarantee of non-aggression in the West.

The position of France in the game is not an enviable one. She is threatened with isolation. Italy

is concentrating troops in Africa. France must face the possibility of an Italian attack in Africa, a concerted Italian and German attack on her frontiers, together with a Fascist coup fomented inside her own territory—in short the very disagreeable possibility of the birds of Non-Intervention coming home to roost.

It is early to judge the results of Delbos' European tour. While it may have eased the situation to some extent, there is no basis for undue optimism, as France's present foreign policy, notably with regard to Spain, is not calculated to inspire unlimited confidence among the small countries who want peace and fear aggression, and who, because of this policy and their very fear, are tending to be swung more and more into the orbit of Hitler Germany.

A further proof, if it were needed, that the Fascist powers are resolved on a course which requires a very light baggage of international commitments is provided by Italy's departure from the League of Nations.

THE FAR EAST

In the Far East, too, the situation is sharpening. The Brussels Conference which was summoned to find a solution and a just settlement to the Far Eastern situation, decided on November 24th that it could make no useful contribution to the realisation of its programme and should therefore adjourn indefinitely. This was a betrayal of the October 5th resolution at Geneva that aid should be given to China. As usual the



British Government had its full quota of guilt in this decision. Japan was considerably heartened and began a consistent effort to drive the European powers from Shanghai. She is demanding the right to control the International Settlement, and has seized the Chinese customs with their annual revenue of 21,000,000 pounds. Protest notes have followed, and Japan, by sinking American and British ships — "unintentionally", of course — is supplying the Governments concerned with a more direct inducement to leave Asia to the Asiatics, i. e. the Japanese.

JAPAN'S HASTE

Like Franco, Japan is in a hurry. She knows the resistance she can expect in Central China. She has had a foretaste of the tremendous economic and internal difficulties in which a prolonged struggle will involve her. "Energetic protest notes" will not make Japanese imperialism deviate from its chosen path — the formula "energetic protest = profound apologies + fresh aggression" can be continued indefinitely. On the other hand, economic sanctions administered by Washington, London and Paris in a firm united stand could do a great deal. The dockers of Southampton and Glasgow who have refused to handle Japanese goods have shown the way to all who love peace.

While the rulers are playing this infernal game the peoples are beginning to awaken to the issues at stake. Everything depends on how soon they take a decisive part.

A. M. E.

TORPEDO BOAT N.º 3

In the Naval Delegation in Madrid a banquet was held lately by the Sailor's Home in honor of Torpedo Boat Number 3, saved during the evacuation of Gijón.

The Commander of this unit of the Government fleet, Guillermo Almeiros, had been given concrete orders to sink Torpedo Boat Number 3, which was at the time thought to be irremediably lost, rather than have it fall into the hands of the invading forces.

Almeiros not only saved the ship, as he had likewise done when the cities of San Sebastian, Bilbao and Pasajes fell, but, facing the countless dangers that were in his way and flying the tri-colored Republican flag, sailed for Bordeaux with the General Staff of the Army of the North on board.

NATIONAL PEOPLE'S FRONT COMMITTEE MAKES UNITY APPEAL

On renewing its activity following the move to Barcelona, the National Committee of the People's Front has published an appeal to the militants of all parties and antifascist organisations and to the people of Spain as a whole inviting them to bring about the unity of action demanded by the Republic.

The appeal states that the Army is calmly awaiting the fascist offensive and that it is determined to maintain the independence of the Spanish people. The Committee congratulates Doctor Negrin on being satisfied with nothing but complete victory. It calls for unity in all sections of the people, the strengthening of the Army, the nationalisation of war industries and for world antifascist unity.

The appeal is signed by the Left Republican Party, the Republican Union, the Socialist Party, and the Communist Party.



THE STATUE of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza in the Plaza de España of Madrid. A short distance from the statue begins one of the city's front line trenches.

PLAZA DE ESPAÑA

If there is peace among these branches
Hanging here without a sound,
The wind brings other tales of trenches,
Tales of war on Spanish ground.

Don Quixote, why at rest?
Centuries have turned the wheel
Since your fathers died and left
Their arms of honour and of steel.

Is your heart not fierce and burning
Underneath your old cuirass
To hear your enemies returning?
Don Quixote, shall they pass?

Drop your shield and shirt of iron,
Drop your cumbrous sword and lance,
Swing out of your saddle, down
From Rosinante's crazy flanks!

Take a gun and shrapnel hat,
The day of swords is dead and gone;
Arm as a soldier, not a knight,
And ride a Spanish camion.

Men are standing, wet and cold,
Underneath the parapet;
Here's the way we change the world,
Stand with us — we'll change it yet!

Stoop, or they'll get you in the head,
Their line is fifty yards from here
And six-foot men are soonest dead.
Have caution where you have not fear!

This is no windmill in a field,
This is the fighting force of shame;
We face them, strength for strength, and yield
To death if must be — not to them!

ZOFIA SCHLEYEN

(Translated from the Polish volunteers' paper
"Dabrowszak". Adapted into English by
M. Tomalin.)

JAPANESE WORKERS AGAINST THE WAR!

TOKIO.—Signs of anti-war activity have been discovered in several munitions and arms factories. Perhaps the most significant manifestation so far occurred in one of the largest war-material plants in Yokohama. Slogans suddenly appeared on the walls calling upon all the workers there to show their solidarity with the Chinese people in arms for their independence. Eight days later an entire wing of the factory was destroyed by an explosion.

Brief strikes, sometimes lasting only a few minutes, have been held in Tokio, Osaka and other important cities. They demanded withdrawal of the entire expeditionary force from China, and some urged that the families of Japanese soldiers be given an allowance by the Government that would enable them to live with some degree of decency. The police have made hundreds of arrests.

THE SOCORRO ROJO INTERNACIONAL

The International volunteers wear buttons and insignias of many kinds. But one leads all the rest. It is not the most picturesque; it is a simple set of initials pinned upon shirt or coat or cap. It is a symbol worn proudly throughout Loyalist Spain by soldiers and civilians alike. It is the insignia of the S. R. I. — the Socorro Rojo Internacional. And the pin on the outside is usually supplemented in the pocket or wallet by a little red membership book full of dues stamps.

If the People's Front Government may be called the father of the Spain of the future, the Socorro Rojo must be called the mother. That accounts for the deep love felt for it. And that explains the profound tenderness, the unceasing effort, the utter devotion shown by the S. R. I. at every time and place that suffering and sorrow could be alleviated. In all emergencies it has come to the rescue swiftly, surely, strongly, saving life, feeding hun-

ger, giving faith in victory and a better day.

Whatever the need, it is Socorro Rojo that launches itself into the situation. Right now, for example, it is engaged ardently and arduously in a Christmas campaign to provide winter clothing for men at the front. That is the outstanding current need. And the Socorro Rojo is determined to fill it. Gathering blankets, overcoats and sweaters, urging women to knit mufflers, gloves and socks, appealing urgently for funds, the organization is successfully proceeding to make the winter of 1937-1938 more comfortable than the one before. General Miaja's donation was one of the first. He gave 5,000 pesetas.

In this drive, as in all of its efforts, the S. R. I. endeavors to supplement the work of the Government. A recent decree limits blankets to not more than one for each civilian. The rest are taken for military use. The



HOMAGE was paid to the International Brigades by the S. R. I. on September 5th at the Monumental Theater in Madrid.

plain truth is that a trench is colder than any house. By its flexibility, by its intimate approach, by its nature as a mass organization, the S. R. I. can develop the public's response to the fullest extent.

The International Brigades surely owe this organization a special debt, for it handles every scrap of mail that comes to volunteers from outside Spain. That is an example of the varied work the S. R. I. does. The IB mail is perhaps one of its comparatively minor tasks.

Much more profound and basic is the record of the things the S. R. I. has done and is doing. It has grappled with all the life-and-death concerns of a people unexpectedly plunged into the horror and chaos of war. But it has not only alleviated their misery; it has turned their faces to victory.

The full and splendid story of the S. R. I. will some day be told. Glorious chapters will be devoted to its work of evacuating women, children and aged from zones of danger and placing them in havens of greater safety; of feeding and supplying Madrid; of caring for the little sons and daughters of slain soldiers of liberty; of its education of illiterates in trenches and factories, the better to understand and fight the fascist foe; of its publishing and propaganda activities, which have produced some of the most compelling and inspiring posters and pamphlets of a land in action; of the kindly in-

fluence it has exercised over the captured fascist prisoners, especially the Italians taken at Guadalajara, who sent the S. R. I. a wreath of flowers as an offering of thanks and friendship.

Surely one of the most soul-stirring stories the world will ever know is about the activities of the S. R. I. rendering aid to the stricken folk living in the rebel zone. Going right into enemy territory, surrounded by hostile and hateful eyes, messengers of loyal mercy distribute funds to sustain life and hope. Men and women do this perilous work, using secret methods. How many have died will perhaps never be known. All details must be kept concealed until victory removes the need for secrecy.

But one great chapter of Socorro Rojo's work can now be told. For, unlike its other activities, this work is finished—finished in that it has been given up by the S. R. I. and put where it belongs — in the better-equipped hands of the Government. Not long ago those powerful hands were not so strong. Then it was that S. R. I. stepped into the breach, toiling with might and main until the Government prepared its own Army Medical Service.

In July 1936, when the traitor generals and the army rebelled, the Army Medical Corps went the same way. But the people rose in their own defense and gave terrific battle. After the first engagements, it became entirely a task of saving Madrid. Groups



GRUB for the front.

of workers and farmers rushed to positions to head off the advancing fascists. At numerous points around Madrid these badly-armed but invincible-hearted militiamen fought tigerishly to protect the city. The fighting was most violent at Carabanchel, Getafe, the Sierra de Guadarama — all within a stone's throw of the capital. Many were killed in each combat and hundreds fell wounded every day.

There was nobody else to do the work of succoring the wounded, so S. R. I. assumed the responsibility. It was as abrupt as that. The organization was not prepared for such work; it had just emerged from an underground existence since 1934. It had no stretchers, stretcher-bearers or ambulances to bring wounded men to the rear. At the



front there was not even any real first aid. How many lives were thus lost is incalculable. And in the rear there were similar difficulties — an inadequate number of hospitals insufficiently equipped for war surgery.

There was, of course, the Red Cross. It had abundant material, trained personnel, plenty of money. But it also had a leadership of the worst reactionary type, ruthless men determined to protect the interests of the rich. In Madrid, in those first days of the war, they went to some unbelievable lengths. Palaces and mansions, whose owners feared their attachment by the Government, were marked by the Red Cross as emergency hospitals. Phalangists and other traitors were put in these hospital with credentials as doctors. In this cunning way they plotted to save certain lives and property, alike condemned by the Republic.

It took many months before the People's Front Government could reorganize the Red Cross and enable it to function properly and decently.

Meanwhile the Socorro Rojo began its war sanitary work. Time was crucial, and the first necessity was to gather and train personnel. By radio, by press, by handbills and posters, the S. R. I. in a couple of days mustered over 7,000 volunteers, men and women. The offices of the organization were invaded by masses of people eager to offer their energy or blood for the wounded — old women willing to work as cleaners, men ready to go to the front as stretcher-bearers, young girls offering their blood for transfusions.

Thus supported by the people, the S. R. I. forged ahead. As soon as they appeared doctors, nurses, orderlies, stretcher-bearers, porters were assigned to duty. Suitable buildings were promptly converted into hospitals and convalescent homes. This went on throughout the country.

But among the many thousands who came, comparatively few had any training in sanitary work. It was necessary to devise short courses to give girls the indispensable knowledge to act as nurses. First-aid men and stretcherbearers were trained in the same rapid way. Out they went to the battlefields. Retiring the wounded from the lines of fire, dressing their injuries, carrying them to the rear, these workers in spite of their improvised ambulances, their limited number of stretchers, their small personal experience, succeeded in saving many lives.

First-aid posts were organized with every militia unit, and a vast campaign of health propaganda was started among the troops. Anti-fascist soldiers were taught how to conserve their health and strength for the battle. At the same time resources were being established and factories built to produce essentials. Soon the improvised ambulances were replaced by the large, modern, regular ambulances now so common — made by the S. R. I. Stretchers in abundance also quickly appeared — manufactured in the S. R. I. factories in Madrid and Valencia.

Public support mounted. The subway workers of Madrid donated a complete hospital train to the S. R. I., and in the most difficult days of the defense of the capital, the train began to function, carrying wounded to suitable places. Among the many hos-

pitals founded by the S. R. I. was the one at Benicasim, devoted to wounded International volunteers. Several hospitals in Murcia serve the same purpose.

As the militia battalions emerged from confusion and gradually became a true People's Army, the medical service kept pace and developed parallel with it. In both organizations the inevitable deficiencies in material and experience were overcome by zealous spirit.

Within six months of war, by the end of 1936, the Medical Corps had been reconstructed and properly organized. The S. R. I. thereupon wound up its own sanitary work — hitherto the major medical mainstay of the young army — and in January 1937 handed over its entire war sanitary organization to the Ministry of War. This consisted of 275 hospitals, sanatoriums and institutions; blood transfusion equipment; schools for nurses and first-aid men; hospital trains; factories making ambulances and stretchers; shops producing sur-

gical instruments and sanitary materials; pharmacies; and complete staffs of doctors, nurses and other personnel.

The Government received the magnificent gift gratefully, but the S. R. I. offered it with simplicity. Representing more than 350,000 anti-fascist Spaniards of all parties and classes, the Socorro Rojo wants nothing more than to strengthen the Republic and end the war victoriously. That is why the S. R. I. receives the unconditional support of the public in Spain and the fervent admiration of the anti-fascist world.

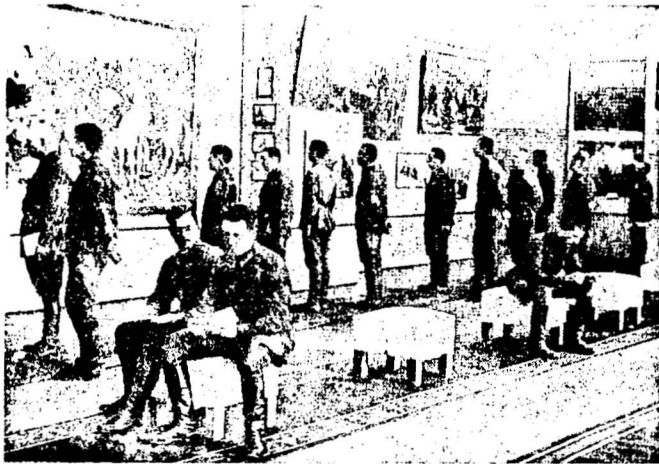
M. M.

Alvarez del Vayo, who recently resigned as Commissar General of War, has been appointed ambassador to France, Ossorio y Gallardo leaves that post to become ambassador to Argentina.



ONE of the many S. R. I. posters used in the present winter campaign to raise funds to get warm clothes for the soldiers at the front.

THE RED ARMY



RED ARMY officers studying art and culture.

The Red Army was constituted by the following government decree of February 21st, 1918.

"The old army was a product of the bourgeoisie formed with the object of oppressing the working-class. When power passed into the hands of the exploited masses of the toilers, the necessity arose of creating a new army which is now the upholder of the Soviets and the general basis of the people's fighting force."

The Red Army was formed and developed on this basis. In the course of its development it had to fight some hard battles; it was attacked by the interventionist armies and the White Guard generals; without clothes and arms; exhausted by more than three years' fighting. And despite all the difficulties this Army succeeded in driving the foreign armies and the White Guard forces from its territory.

The morale and the political level of the Red Army, which were already very high at the outset, developed further under the influence of Socialist construction.

Until 1930 the Red Army remained poorly armed. From that time onwards the fire power of its units began to grow. At the present time the fire power in the Red Army is superior not only to that in the French and American Armies, but also to that in the British Army.

STRONG DISCIPLINE

An iron discipline reigns in the Army. Nevertheless it is no question of blind obedience, but of the conscious proletarian discipline of those who do their duty cheerfully and conscientiously. When off

duty there is no difference between the commander and the soldier. The officers wear no distinguishing sign in the street. In the club the soldier meets the officer and they play chess together, and in the premises of the artistic circle they sing the same song. It is impossible to conceive of such things happening in any capitalist army. Both soldiers and commanders in the Red Army come from workers and peasants who are the masters of their country. Here are some revealing figures of the Red Army's social composition:

	1925	1930	1934
Workers...	11 %	31.2 %	45.8 %
Peasants..	84.7 %	57.9 %	42.5 %
White collar workers	4.3 %	10.9 %	11.7 %

As a consequence of the ever increasing industrialisation of the country the number of workers increases in proportion. Up to 1934 this number has been increased by four. At the present time the workers and peasants constitute the overwhelming majority in the Army. The growth of collectivisation has had its influence on the change in the quality of the peasant soldier of the Red Army. In 1934, 76.7 % of the peasants in the Red Army had worked in collectives, whereas in 1930 there were only 5.3 %. The figure for the working-class element in the command was 31.2 % in 1930, and in 1934 it already stood at 43.3 %. Half the officers' corps is composed of sons of workers and peasants. Every worker has access to the highest post in the Army, after, of course, a period of technical

training in an officers' school. This school is open to all Soviet citizens.

Those citizens who are doing military service are not deprived of their passive and active voting rights as is the case in all capitalist countries. They have the right to elect and to be elected.

As for the political aspect of the Red Army the following figures are significant. In 1934, 49.5 % of the whole Army were members of the Communist Party and the "Komsomol". In the command there were 68.5 % Komsomols and Communists. Seventy-two percent of the Brigade commanders were Party members. Ninety percent of the Division commanders and 100 % of the Army Corps commanders were Communists.

Just as in the factories, service in the Red Army is carried out on the basis of a 5 day week; the 6th day is a rest day. The foreign language course is compulsory in the Army, and every care is taken to develop the artistic talents of the soldiers. In addition to his pay, the soldier's family is maintained by the State and in all the military regions centres have been organised for the soldiers' children.

Many young fellows find their period of military service their

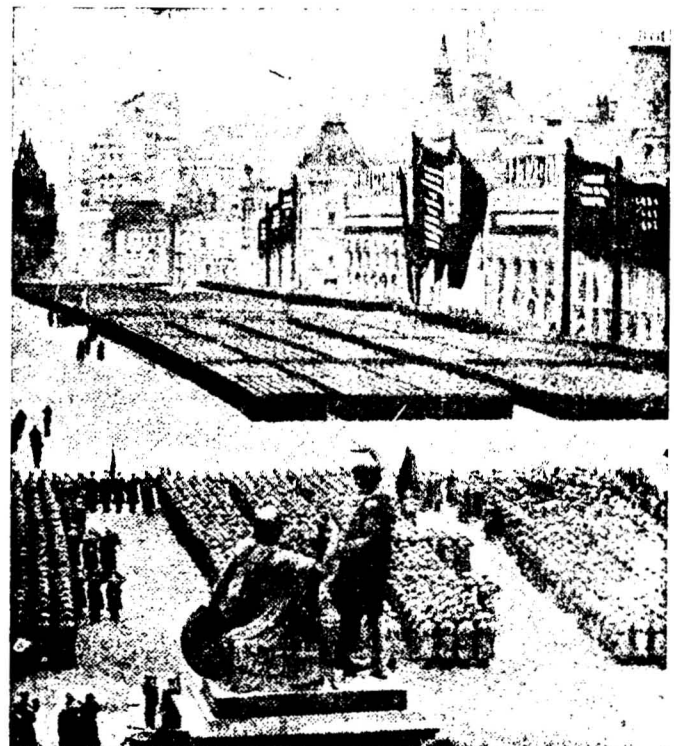
best school. Each of them receives a thorough general culture through courses and meetings. He learns the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism and he follows current political questions closely. The direction of this work falls on the political commissars of the particular units, while the military training is undertaken by the commanders who are also in charge during fighting. Naturally it is impossible to separate these two spheres of work — the one is the complement of the other. The military regulation says:

"In battle the political commissars should be in those places where it is necessary to give an example of sacrifice and courage."

TECHNICAL TRAINING

The Red Army soldier does not merely receive instruction in the social and political sphere, but in the scientific domain also, and he has the possibility of increasing his professional qualifications. In the old army the big land owners and capitalists ensured their power over the soldiers by means of checking their cultural development.

A few years ago a large number of illiterates were still entering the Red Army but not one of them completed his period of mi-



ON PARADE.

litary service without having learned to read and write. Today illiteracy has been liquidated in the country. Today the soldier in the Red Army learns several languages, reads the works of Gorki in the great "Red Army Libraries", attends lectures delivered by the most eminent professors.

The Red Army is in close contact with the people of the U. S. S. R. The Brigades of the Red Army take over the patronage of the collective farms and during the harvest the soldiers help the peasants. After completing their period of military service the members of the collectives become the most capable workers in the cultural centre of the village. As for physical culture it was formerly unknown in the village. To-

day it is an important factor in the educational domain, a factor making for health and beauty.

The Soviet land which possesses such a great defence force, both from the technical point of view and from the standpoint of morale and discipline, does not contemplate any wars of aggression against its near or distant neighbors. But they will defend the conquests of Socialist construction with their lives. They will defend their liberty and their happiness. In the words of the old Red Army song:

"We want no war with anyone,
For war is for the rich.
We want to be at peace with all —
We all want peace and work."



A MOTORIZED unit of the Red Army.

Despatch-Riders on the Job

Few men carry more responsibility in war time than the despatch-riders, and their work is proportionately difficult and dangerous. Picture a man riding a motor-cycle through the night as fast as he dare, not always sure where his own lines end and the fascist lines begin. He has nobody to talk to; every fascist marksman who happens to see him makes a special target of him, for the sake of what he carries. Despatches are not reassuring company. He has been riding all day; now it is dark and he is still riding. His is not an arm-chair job.

A group of cyclists is attached to each Brigade. They follow Headquarters and wait for instructions. During an action they have very little time to rest. Messages are put into their hands which they must deliver personally to the commanders of the various Brigade units, or to Divisional or Army Corps Headquarters. Once a rider receives his despatch, his sole object must be to deliver it as quickly as possible and not stop for anything.

When Headquarters establishes itself, he digs himself a hole nearby and leaves his machine as close at hand as he can. As soon as he gets the word to go, he goes, regardless of what is happening outside. He may have to go out in the middle of an air-raid or artillery bombardment. There may be machine-gun fire across that section. Whatever there is, he goes.

During an action, the Brigade

units are usually spread out over rough ground. The despatch-rider takes his chance. He must stay on his machine up to the last possible minute, in order to save time. The danger, the uncertainty, the lonely responsibility, together with the continual jolting and ceaseless work, put a heavy strain on a man's nerves.

Despatch-riders see something of all sides of the war, and become involved in a variety of adventures. A rider of the XV Brigade was sent back with a message to Quinto during the action at Fuentes. Those who were in that action will remember how the crest of the road was covered by fascist machine-guns. Although it was night, a bullet grazed the ri-

der's leg. It was not a serious wound, but it drew plenty of blood. He drove on and delivered the message. On his way back, he was approaching the line, when a stretcher-bearer stopped him. Somewhere beyond the trenches lay a wounded man, and the second bearer was missing. The rider got off his cycle to lend a hand.

Despite the bright moon, the two of them lost their way — a thing that often happens in no-man's land. Bullets began whistling over. The two men dropped into a hole.

"Have you a gun?" says the stretcher-bearer.

"Sure", says the rider, and

feels round for his revolver. He had left it behind.

At that moment a group of men rose up against the sky a few yards away. If they were fascists, the only thing an unarmed man could do was to run, and the only way to find out was to shout. He shouted.

"Who are you?"

The answer came back in English. — "Food detail."

Their relief can be imagined. They got out of the hole.

A diminutive Spaniard staggered by, carrying in his arms a soldier who had been wounded in the stomach. The despatch-rider was strongly built and took the man from him. Bullets dropped near him. He began to run. If anything did hit him, he was going to get it in the back. He went on running, despite his wounded leg. He ran until he almost dropped, but he reached the dressing-station.

Despatch-riders have a hard time, and when they get a rest, they earn it.



HALPERN, BORNE and MINOT, Brigade cyclists.

RECOGNITION!

The Manchukuo Government has decided to extend formal recognition to General Franco's government in Spain, and is waiting for Spanish recognition of Manchukuo.

Fascist Planes Continue To Bomb Civilian Population

Though, apart from Teruel activity has been limited to small skirmishes on the various fronts, there has been an increase in the number of insurgent air raids on towns and villages behind the Republican lines. On December 3 a number of bombing raids destroyed hundreds of homes in the villages near Madrid. In every case the aggressors were German Junkers. It will be recalled that fascist tactics are first to bomb non-military objectives miles behind the Government lines so as to try and break the people's morale and a few days later to launch their offensive on the front chosen for attack. These were the tactics adopted in Durango and Guernica, and later in the Asturias, where the people lacked arms to defend themselves. And these are the tactics which may be employed now, and which the Republican Army is prepared to counter. For Madrid is not Euzkadi; Madrid has not only the will, but the means with which to defend herself. And this is true of the whole of Republican Spain.

Air attacks have not only taken place in the Madrid sector, they have also increased along the whole of the Mediterranean coast. Barcelona has twice been the vic-

tim of German aggression. On one occasion fifteen Junkers caused 36 deaths and over a hundred wounded in a brief five minutes. It is



interesting to note that the fascist planes fly so high that it is impossible for them to hit their objectives with accuracy. Barcelona was bombed from 15,000 feet and not a single strategic point was hit. On the other hand the Republicans fly low and make sure of their objectives. On the same day as Barcelona was bombed, 24 Republican planes carried out a raid on Palma de Majorca, where they caused severe damage to the harbour and to the rebel aerodromes. They were attacked by rebel pursuit planes and in the ensuing battle three insurgent machines crashed in flames, while the Republicans lost one plane.



THE "constructive" spirit of fascism. One of the thousands of Spanish homes

New System of Education Introduced in Spain

The decree of October 30, 1937 established a new plan of studies for primary schools.

The new plan provides for a standard weekly time table which must be observed by all national teachers.

In order to have a clear understanding of the need for this reform which has just been brought about by the Ministry of Education, it must be borne in mind that the system hitherto in force dated from the year 1909 and had not been modified since that date. The only change was the suppression of religious teaching following the establishment of the Republic. In all other subjects teachers of to-day had to follow the instructions laid down by the monarchy 28 years ago. Moreover, Spain was in this respect an exception. In better organised countries schools are governed by laws and precepts which give education a nation-wide character, and which regulate the work of the teachers and assure that every citizen acquires a minimum of culture. Our schools, our teachers did not have these laws and precepts and thus lacked a criterion for their work suited to the social and cultural needs of Spain.

Such a criterion is now established by this recent decree of the Ministry of Education. This decree lays down which subjects are to be taught in all the schools and how much time is to be devoted to each subject every week.

There are some features in the new plan which are worthy of mention because they represent a real step forward in Spanish school life, which now becomes one of the most advanced in Europe.

Due importance is given to the Spanish language. Before learning grammar, children must first learn to speak, to read and to write as a necessary basis for the knowledge of their language. Our literature will be studied by means of recitation exercises and by reading the works of the great Spanish writers. The children will be given exercises so as to learn to express themselves freely and correctly.

Another interesting aspect is the importance given to the knowledge of the surroundings in which the child lives — the natural surroundings, the study of the things and the beings among which the

child lives and the social atmosphere. Visits to places of work are made obligatory: factories, workshops, mines, large industrial centres, so as to place the school in contact with the realities of the lives of the workers and with the means of production. On this basis a new subject in the plan of primary studies is created: economic and social knowledge, which has hitherto been absent from the school curriculum.

Preferential attention will be paid to practical work and to manual labour, which will form the basis of all school work. In this way the child will be familiarised from the very beginning with the methods and tools of



work and will acquire a feeling of unity of effort in production and a consciousness of his future social destiny.

History will be given a new orientation. Its content will be revised so as to determine the decisive part played by the people in every great event in history.

Great attention will be paid to physical culture. There will not only be a regular period for drill every day, but once a week an entire afternoon will be devoted to physical culture, games and sports so as to assure the healthy corporal development of the children.

Religious teaching and moral teaching given in the form of dogmas, which were completely useless, are suppressed. But the teachers will be encouraged to create an atmosphere of uprightness, cleanliness and honesty in order to influence the behavior of the children. The children will also be shown the example of those men who by their works and their lives have contributed to make the peoples happier, freer and more progressive.

Paris Archbishop Defends Freedom

Cardinal Verdier, archbishop of Paris, put the church on the side of liberty in a recent conference on the subject of "The Church and Spiritual Freedom in the Present Hour".

Describing the political evolution of the modern world, he said that after three great stages — slavery, servitude, and finally compensated service — humanity is still forced to struggle ceaselessly to break the chains of oppression. The Church has never stopped proclaiming that all men are equal.

It is necessary, he continued, for the church to stand by the democracies, because the individual must not be absorbed by the state. The Archbishop declared that the rights of men and citizens cannot be overlooked. When they are, public misfortune is bound to occur.



SPANISH WOMEN are well aware of the part their men are playing at the front against fascism; consequently, more and more are enlisting in their country's industries to help the Republic.

The Bacon Comes Home

Animal life in Spain is at sixes and sevens. Dogs and cats cease to be domesticated; nobody has time to bother with them. On the other hand, edible creatures are now suffering from the delusion that the human race loves them for themselves alone.

The other day a sheep, drawn by a bond of sympathy, entered the premises of the Estado Mayor, and roamed through the rooms and passages as if it was already on the staff. (By now it probably is). It became the faithful friend of anybody who petted it.

This is not just rustic lack of savoir faire. The same thing happens in the cities. This morning a few comrades were drinking their modest beer in the canteen of the Political Commissariat in Madrid when a pig appeared. The pig was absolutely solid and it had no purple spots. A man would have to drink that canteen dry if he wanted anything more than that. It was a pig.

An English comrade contemplated it in silence for many minutes, and then turned round with a wide smile.

"You can cook me a couple of eggs", he said.

ICKES WARNS AGAINST FASCISM

An attack upon the forces of fascism was made by Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, in a speech before the American Civil Liberties Union in New York recently.

He declared that, in his judgment, the moment had come for the strongest democratic powers of the world to join together quickly to resist the attack of the totalitarian states upon their liberties. The naive optimism that the forms of democratic government can be protected in some indefinite manner must be dropped, he said. Mr. Ickes pointed out that right in the United States there are various fascist tendencies which have to be treated forcibly. He gave the example of the Ku Klux Klan which was broken up by the federal authorities because of its menace to Americanism.

We must be aware today, he said, of "the new madness of the fascist nations which constitutes a threat to the United States, its constitutional rights and the liberties of the people".

The Secretary of the Interior continued: "There are certain nations very proud of their civilization, who proceed to commit ag-

gressions against their neighbors, without the excuse of the slightest act of provocation. Their announced purpose is the elimination of communism. With that pretext, they carry out a series of crimes that would make the worst savages blush with shame. But among ourselves there are similar elements who for similar reasons desire to see the American democratic institutions weakened.

"It is not necessary to have much intelligence to perceive that this phantom of communism is nothing more than a new Trojan horse, behind which fascism plots to conceal itself in order to force the walls of the temple of liberty."

In his conclusion, Mr. Ickes argued that the framers of the American constitution could not foresee the great concentration of wealth which has developed in recent generations. But, as a result, industry and finance have the advantage over the liberties of the people. For this reason, argued Mr. Ickes, "it is necessary to think about a constitutional reform which would safeguard the citizens in their relations with the corporations".

"Attlee Company" Rapped by Tories

LONDON. — The Conservative M. P., Turton, called Mr. Anthony Eden's attention in one of the recent sessions of the House of Commons, to the fact that there now exists a "Major Attlee Company" fighting on the loyalist side of Spain. The Tory M. P. demanded to know the number of Britishers in the Republican forces. He wanted to know if the Spanish Republican Government could not possibly change the name because, he said, the present name might confuse Britishers regarding the attitude of strict "neutrality" on the part of Britain toward the Spanish conflict.

Eden answered that he knew of the existence of the "Major Attlee Company," but that he was ignorant of the number of those fighting with it. He added that he did not think it necessary for the British Government to intervene.

Basket-Ball For Spanish Youth

The good old American game of basket-ball is going to be popularized in Spain. The Bureau of Physical Education of the General War Commissariat has decided that it is the ideal sport for Loyalist soldiers. A committee is working on methods of instruction, training and preparing courts for the game.

Basket-ball is fairly well-known in the large cities of Spain, and it is felt that young Spaniards everywhere will welcome the game with enthusiasm. As an especially suitable sport for war conditions, it requires small playing space, minimum equipment and few players on either side. It can be played both indoors and outside, which is another advantage.

As a means of physical training for soldiers and recruits, the game calls for strength, agility, concentration, speed and teamwork. These qualities may develop at the same time as the pleasure of playing is experienced. For these reasons, the committee considers basket-ball the most complete and best-adapted game for the members of the People's Army. Plans will be made eventually for tournaments between companies and battalions, and finally for teams representing all the brigades of the army.

BASQUES IN CATALONIA

In an interview the provisional president of the Basque Government, Eliodoro de la Torre, stated the following:

"The Basque State functions in Catalonia with complete economic and judicial independence. It fulfils all the functions assigned to it by the Spanish Cortes, and is trying to normalise the life of its subjects, momentarily interrupted by the hazards of war."

Eliodoro de la Torre then fully described the economic progress of the life of the Basque people.

"There are now many Basque workers in Barcelona employed in the factories and workshops devoted to war industries, where they are much appreciated because of their skill. Those who are still without work are anxious to join their comrades."

"We also try to find employment for the Basque women in Catalonia."

"We would like to see every

Basque citizen employed and capable of supporting himself so as not to be a burden to the Spanish Government."

"There are approximately 150,000 Basques in Catalonia. To solve the food problem of these people we plan to open distributing stores where all Basque citizens, with the corresponding rationing card supplied to them by the Basque authorities will be able to buy a fair portion of food, in proportion to the food regulations of the rest of Spain. This will relieve the Central Government of the task of supplying food to an important section of the population."

"The Government of Euzkadi wants this and the Basques wish to work so as to be able to support themselves and so as not to be a burden. At the same time we are deeply thankful for Catalonia's fraternal welcome."

SPANISH COMMITTEE RETURNS FROM U. S. S. R.

The Spanish Committee of Friends of the Soviet Union, which visited the U. S. S. R. with greetings on its twentieth anniversary, has returned full of happiness at the welfare of Spanish

children, and many of them are already beginning to learn the language of the country which has harbored them so warmly.

The delegation reported with great emotion the first meeting its members had with the Spanish children, who embraced them with great jubilation. The children were healthy and contented, seeming to have been brought to another planet.

A statement by the chairman of the Committee said: "In the Soviet Union there are people of all temperaments, but they all appear dominated by a common idea of comradeship, of sacrifice for the collective welfare. As already indicated, the children are considered of main importance in the U. S. S. R. All good things are devoted to them, and the best is given to the little Spaniards living with them."



refugee children in the Soviet Union.

The Spanish children, they report, are not only magnificently cared for; they are also educated according to the principles of the people, who as a matter of law devote maximum attention to the child. Spanish youngsters attend the same schools as the Russian

BILL INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS TO HELP LEGAL GOVERNMENTS

Congressman Jerry O'Connell has submitted a bill to Congress recently to amend the Neutrality Act to permit the shipment of munitions to legally constituted governments. At the same time the bill would prevent exportation of war materials to aggressor nations and would forbid the use of American vessels in carrying such materials.

BRITISH BATTALION STAGES SPORTS FIESTA

The British Battalion's Sports Fiesta, held while the Brigade was at rest, included both peace-time and military events. Plenty of enthusiasm and plenty of good form were forth-coming. The inter-unit shooting and bomb-throwing contests showed an excellent standard.

The Spanish football teams beat the British Battalion and Anti-Tanks. The Lincoln-Washingtons won their game. Boxing events were held at the same time in the Plaza de Toros. The British have among them an amateur champion who bowled an American giant completely over.

Comrade Cypriano a Spanish section-leader, entered the ring with a Scottish opponent, both grinning broadly. They knocked each other all over the place, but never stopped grinning. Cypriano won. This is the spirit in which men should do their fighting. The fascists have introduced other styles into Cypriano's country.

BOMB THROWING EVENT

The shooting event was arranged for teams of ten men. British, Lincoln and Mac-Paps competed. At about half-time two Scouts arrived. They had been unable to

make up a full team from their small unit, but were not to be discouraged from having a few shots when the others had finished.

Teams shot at ranges of 100 and 200 metres, five shots a man on each range. Four points were allowed for a bull. The umpires were offering 5 for a marker, but the markers didn't give anybody a chance. The British had some good individual marksmen but on all-round form came in second to the Mac-Paps, who totalled 255 out of a possible 400.

The husky men of the Lincolns came into their own in the bomb-throwing. Pitching for distance they reached 45 paces, Mac-Paps a few paces behind. Rules of the accuracy contest required that bombs should be lobbed over a short distance into a narrow trench on the further side of a parapet. Lincolns scored 3 to the other units' 1 each.

The military events were supervised by the British Battalion Adjutant, with an efficiency that did not diminish as the cold crept into his bones. He even took care to see that solidarity with the Spanish peasants was maintained when the events were over, by directing the home-going competitors around the crops.

Movie Actors Aid Spain

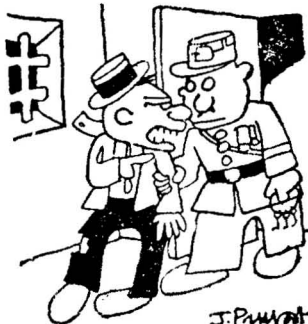
The Hollywood Committee, composed of leading movie actors and directors, has inaugurated a week of aid to Spanish youngsters. The committee is offering a handsome seal for public subscription. On a background of red and green is the slogan "Help the Spanish children." The proceeds will be used to send several boatloads of toys and clothing for Spanish orphans and refugees.

Similar collections are being undertaken all over the democratic world, and the committee under which the Hollywood group operates includes Lloyd George, the Duchess of Atholl, Eduard Herriot and President Cardenas of Mexico.

U. S. Communists Recruit in Open

The American Communist Party will now conduct open recruiting for volunteers to Spain. This announcement was made by Earl Browder, despite the decision of the U. S. Department of State to issue passports for Spain exclusively to doctors, nurses and other members of medical units.

DELICACY



"See here—don't go locking me up with the aristocracy. I ain't their class, and I got a sense of refinement."



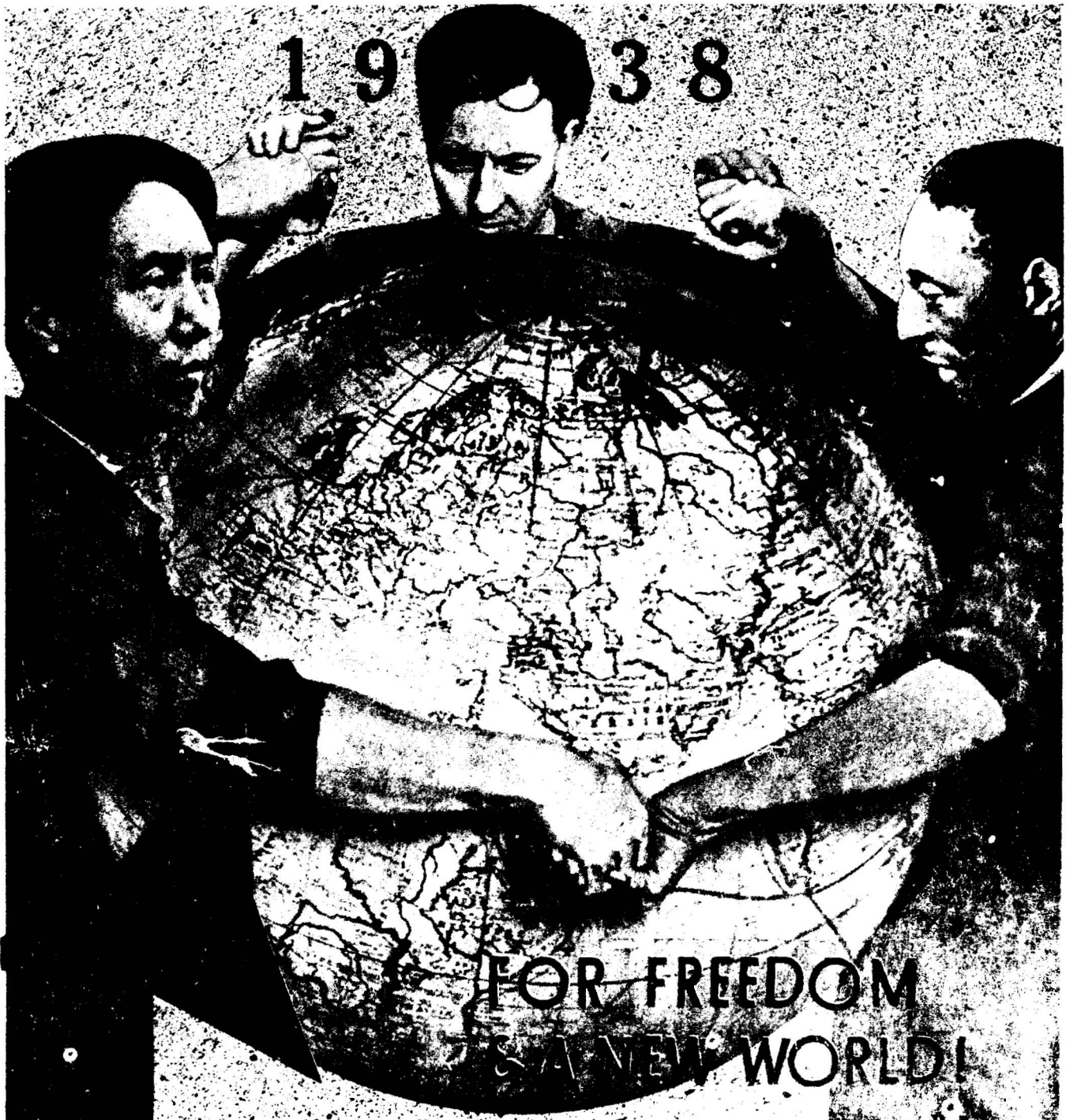
The VOLUNTEER FOR LIBERTY

organ of the international brigades



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Madrid, December 27 - 1937



Teruel Offensive Upsets Fascist Intrigues Abroad

At the beginning of December Spain was definitely not in the news in Britain. The reason could hardly be ascribed to the *all quiet* atmosphere on the various fronts because every journalist believed that it was the calm before the storm. The question was: who would unloose the storm and where?

Odds were on Franco, who, fresh from battering his way to victory against the ill-armed and isolated Government forces of the North, was shouting out to high heaven his immediate intention of sweeping down on the other Government fronts and crushing finally and determinedly the resistance of the "Reds". Other more experienced observers, remembering that for eight months Franco had been on the defensive on all the main fronts, likewise believed that it was his turn to show that he could do something against the main armies of the Republic. Half a dozen seasoned war correspondents forecast a fascist offensive on half a dozen different fronts from Jaca down to Almeria.

But of all this not a line in the British newspapers. Not even in the Liberal dailies! Why the strange silence? Only a few weeks before the same press had been featuring forecasts of a truce, of a peace even, in Spain. Such rumours had ceased only when the Republican Government had peremptorily and categorical-

ly denied them, and had insisted that peace will come only with the victory of Republican cause.



There is a connection between the rumours of compromise and peace, and the subsequent boycott of Spanish news by most of the British press.

It is common knowledge that a section of the British ruling class, strongly represented in the Government, is working hard and glove with International Fascism.

solini had realised that they were fighting a losing game. The drain on their money, munitions and men was not being justified by results. They had staked their claims to mineral wealth in the North and in Cordoba. They were willing to cut their losses and pull out. Their friends in the British ruling class were to secure for them by peace what they themselves could not win by war. That, in a nutshell, is the truth behind the peace rumours of a month ago. The rumours were feelers.

But the Republican people want their country, the whole country, and nothing less will suffice them. So the Republican Government answered the peace feelers with an emphatic "NO!" Baffled, the pro-fascists of Britain decided that as a preliminary to further presentation of their compromise plans which they have not abandoned, sympathy and support for Spain must be damped down in Britain. Hence the silence, even in the Liberal press, on the Spanish issue.

Meanwhile how does Franco fare? Two incidents are revealing.

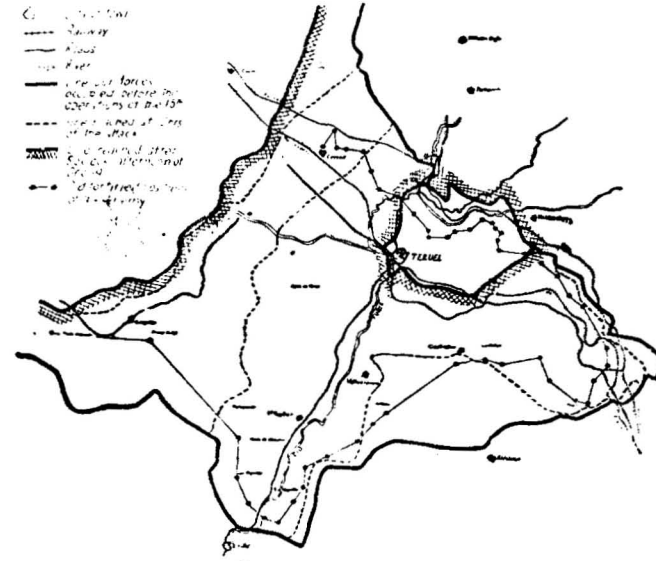
According to Captain Liddel Hart, British military expert, Germany and Italy last summer each possessed 1,500 warplanes. Franco has at present 1,000 of these planes assisting him in Spain. In other

the defensive, to keep them quiet, to perpetuate the atmosphere of apparent stalemate in Spain, to facilitate the intriguing which he hoped would end the war and thus prevent him from being driven out of Spain entirely. Meanwhile the press in Britain was to say nothing except that both sides had fought themselves to a standstill, that neither side could win, that a truce should be arranged and Spain be divided between the fascists and the Republicans.

It was good diplomacy; at least it looked so. Major Attlee was the first to jar it. Major Attlee came to Spain and brought back a story of the Republic that was the very opposite of the story the British press was being instructed to present. He told of an organised people, of an organised and well trained army, of a stirring enthusiasm for victory. Major Attlee's leader of His Majesty's opposition, could not be boycotted, nor his speeches suppressed.

Then came the thunderclap. Unheralded, unexpected, the offensive began in Spain — and not where the experts had forecast. Nor was it a fascist offensive. In a lightning thrust the Government forces brilliantly smashed through fascist strongholds, su-

MAP OF OF THE GENERAL OPERATIONS EFFECTED IN THE CAPTURE OF TERUEL.—The heavy black line indicates the position of our forces before beginning the operations. The broken line shows how far the Loyal forces advanced 12 hours after the beginning of the attack. The screened lines show to what extent they continued the advance in the late afternoon of December 19th. The dotted black lines show the old fortified positions of the enemy.



words, one third of the combined fascist air armada is tied up in Spain in the service of Franco. Of that one-third practically half had to be concentrated on the Madrid front in July last to hold up the Republican offensive. Eighty-three were shot down! At such a rate of losses Germany and Italy cannot afford to continue to supply Franco, and at the same time maintain their necessary home strength.

Again, Franco has a chronic shortage of men. The Government forces are continuously being augmented. On the great battlefield from North to South the Government is fortifying its line and bringing up ever more and more reserves. Franco is faced with the necessity of doing likewise or, in default, leaving weak points in his line which the Republicans will be able to break through. This puts tremendous additional burdens on Franco and his masters.

So, for military as well as political reasons, Franco was content to talk of the coming big push, to keep the Government on



Mr. Anthony Eden, British Tory schemer.

rounded and captured the important strategic city of Teruel.

So a plot goes wrong. Willy nilly, the British press has Spain on the front pages these days.

F. R. and A. D.

REQUETES MAKE APPEAL AGAINST FOREIGN INVASION

The disintegration in the fascist line-up shows signs of increasing steadily. One of the most genuinely significant splits is among the requetes, that section of the fascist forces which feels that it is defending church and religion. "La Vanguardia", a Barcelona newspaper, published a photostatic copy recently of the following appeal made by requete leaders to their followers:

"The blood shed by so many thousands of our brothers makes it necessary for us to begin looking facts in the face. In our fight for God and country we have overlooked the fact that we are giving away our land to foreigners; our army, our wealth, our frontiers, our institutions of the new state we are building—all is in their hands. Their insolence knows no limits. If such is the case now when the outcome of the war is still uncertain, are we not obliged to ask what it will be after the victory?

"By blood and battle we are preventing the Marxist Government from enslaving the Catholic church. Shall we now permit it to be enslaved by a state controlled by the invader? The publication has been prohibited in Catholic Spain of the encyclical of March 14, 1937, issued by our sainted father, Pope Pius XI. In it His Holiness condemns the theory of the invasion of Spain based on the argument that the Government has crushed the Church of Christ. Likewise it tells of the tremendous persecutions in Germany launched against Catholic priests and nuns, and the wave of mud heaped upon them.

"Meanwhile the same ones who persecute Christ in their own country are entrenching themselves in our nation, taking charge of our frontiers, our wealth and even of our institutions.

"Requetes, open your eyes! You will see that we too are selling Jesus Christ for thirty pieces of silver!"

FRANCO'S DILEMMA

God knows its a tough situation When one man dictates to a nation.

With two others as well,
Does it work? Does it hell!
It's I have to take the dictation!



Photo of Moors found among other papers in the possession of an Italian soldier taken prisoner at Gualajara.

MUSSOLINI'S ETHIOPIAN VENTURE BRINGS FRUITLESS HARVEST

The expectations based upon the conquest of Ethiopia, have become disillusioned after eighteen months of occupation of that land. This is the general reaction throughout Italy, according to "La Voce degli Italiani", anti-fascist periodical published in Paris by exiles and refugees from Mussolini's terror. The article shows that the year and a half since Ethiopia fell have been a period during which disappointment has developed into discontent and uneasiness.

This feeling is spread to all parts of Italy, and in every social sphere the idea is taking body that the enormous military costs and human sacrifices of the Ethiopian war have brought no benefits. On the contrary, people are thinking that these losses have made the home situation worse. Time has already shown that the conquered territory cannot be profitably exploited. The promised jobs for individuals and wealth for Italy have not been forthcoming.

At the beginning many people supported the war, feeling that the annexation of Ethiopia would

result in great advantages, including reduced unemployment. The promises and boasts of Mussolini were extravagant, but people were not yet prepared to doubt. Today they are, for none of the Duce's great claims can be fulfilled. The discontent is gradually making its way into the open. Fuel is fed by the pessimistic views of Italian workers who have been sent to Ethiopia.

These workers testify that the soil is practically impossible for farming purposes. They say further that they were pressed into the army and made to serve like regular soldiers. The need for a large and active army is obvious, they point out, because the natives everywhere are hostile. In addition to that peril, these workers found the cost of living high, supplies irregular and undependable, and basic essentials scarce. The great majority of these returned Italians, it seems, would refuse even by force to go back to Ethiopia. They would prefer to die of hunger at home than to undergo again the penalties and sacrifices of Mussolini's non-existent opportunities.

Traders and industrial agents bring back the same reports and show the same feeling of futility. Like the workers, they also express doubt and discouragement concerning the economic prospects of Italy in Ethiopia. Mussolini's African adventure has accomplished the usual fascist result: the condition of the Italian people has grown more difficult.

MILITARY PLAN FOR MEXICAN UNIONISTS

The workers of Mexico will not be taken unawares by the fascists of their country. Mexican workers are beginning a course in military training.

The General Confederation of Workers of Mexico at its recent national congress decided to form a military organization, to which all of its members must belong. This step was taken with a view to the possibility of a fascist attempt to seize power through violence.



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Organ of the International Brigades

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TIGHTENING OUR BELTS

In a recent speech to the Plenum of the Spanish Communist Party, Vicente Uribe, Minister of Agriculture, made an examination of the economic consequences of the war. He pointed out that the resources of the country were being severely strained because war is a costly business, that factories normally producing goods for internal consumption or for export trade were now producing war material thus causing a shortage in certain articles, and that sheer waste in the earlier days had added to the present difficulties.

The Government is facing up to the problem of utilising the economic resources to the fullest extent in order to meet the demands of war. When Uribe made this speech he made it with the intention of mobilising public support behind the Government in this matter. In its programme of the nationalisation of the war industry, the improvement in agricultural output, the elimination of all waste, and the general tightening of belts all round, the Government must have the enthusiastic support of the soldiers at the front and the workers in the rear.

Spain must still buy arms where she can until such time as her own arms industry can supply everything for the war. She must buy coal for her furnaces and railroads. She must buy every pint of oil and petrol for her lorries, tanks and planes. To do so she must cut down on the purchase of articles which are not so vital, on coffee, sugar, tobacco, paper, etc.

This very necessary policy has its effect upon conditions inside Spain, conditions which call for sacrifice based upon an understanding of the situation. When we feel a little exasperated with the universal "NO HAY!", we must remember why. It is better to feel that there is petrol in the tanks of our planes even if the coffee does taste less sweet, that there are still bullets for our rifles even if the tobacco is not so good, or as plentiful as it might be.

The Republican Government has been very generous to the soldiers in the lines. It has carried out a policy of "only the best is good enough for the front". When there has been a shortage of food in the towns, there has still been sufficient in the trenches. When the civilian population and the peasants have almost forgotten how to roll cigarettes, there has still been a fair supply of tobacco for the soldiers. The soldiers have always come first with the Government.

For our part we must do everything possible in return. We must wage a war against waste; we must cut down our requirements to a minimum. The International Volunteers who have shown the Spanish people that they are prepared to fight and die, if necessary, for Liberty and Democracy, must also show them that they are prepared to face other consequences of war — the tightening of belts, the cutting down of little luxuries.

CUBAN STUDENT DELEGATION IN SPAIN

In response to the appeal issued by Spanish and Catalanian students to celebrate an International Students Week, Cuba's organized students sent two delegates. They were José López Sánchez, representing the Student Federation of the University of Havana, and Nerina Luque, representing the

was able to investigate the educational activities in Spain by visiting colleges, schools, institutes and other centers for training and recreation. As a result, they are greatly impressed by the cultural efforts and plans they have found everywhere. In the name of the organizations they represent, the-



José López Sánchez (Left), representing the Student Federation of the University of Havana, and Nerina Luque, delegate from the Havana Normal School. They are seen talking to "El Campesino", who is next to the girls.

Normal School for Teachers, of Havana.

The Cuban student delegation

se Cuban students pay tribute to the Minister of Public Instruction, of the People's Front Government.

CUBAN STUDENT DELEGATION GREETES I. B. SOLDIERS

Comrades of the International Brigades, we salute you in the name of the Cuban students and we express our admiration for your heroism in the defense of democracy and universal culture.

Brother Cubans, we embrace you in the memory of the admirable example of Pablo de la Torre Brau, Rodolfo de Armas, and many others. Imitate them.

I shall return to my country certain of the triumph of the Spanish people, which will be the triumph of all the peoples of the world.

JOSE LOPEZ SANCHEZ
Delegate of the Student Federation of
the University of Havana.

QUEIPO TAKES THE CAKE

Honors for the tallest story of the Teruel action go as usual to Queipo de Llano. According to report, he has broadcast to the world at large the following explanation of the defeat. Republican troops in flight from the fascists at Guadalajara ran all the way to Teruel and took it by mistake. Queipo has always been a gentlemen's clown.

SWISS TELLS OF OPPRESSION IN FASCIST SPAIN

The "National Zeitung" of Switzerland published the following article in one of its recent numbers written by a Swiss who is reputed to be well-informed on what is going on in the fascist zone of Spain.

"The situation in Andalucia is certainly not of a rosy color and it is not possible to say there is enthusiasm or the spirit of victory. The cost of living has increased more than 20 percent. In many residences people live on credit, as they are unemployed and have no means to pay. Numerous Spaniards have sought refuge by fleeing to Republican territory. A poster proves how great is the fear of espionage; it reads as follows: 'Take care; your neighbor might be an enemy spy.' Consequently everyone preserves strict silence on all matters that might give the impression of dejection or discontent. The taxes, direct and indirect, and the bad living conditions forced on the workers by the military insurrectionists right from the start have led to the abolition of days off from work at the same time that wages have gone down.

SEVILLE SEIZED

Seville voted a large Popular Front majority in the elections of February 1936. Most of these voters, as a logical reaction, expressed themselves against the industrialists and large proprietors who had sabotaged, by all methods, the social improvements instituted by the young Republic.

We learned of the uprising at midnight. While we were listening to the radio broadcast from Madrid, the gross voice of an official suddenly broke in to announce that our city had been occupied by the Foreign Legion and that Moroccan troops were on the point of arrival. When the workers, alarmed, rushed to the municipal authorities to demand arms, they were already too late. The city buildings were manned by troops. There followed several agitated and uncertain weeks, during which rifle fire was frequently heard at night. The official figures say that 300 persons were shot in this city during the course of the year. In reality, the number is 2,000. Each citizen known to have the slightest left-wing tendency was assassinated. I have never been a socialist, but

I have known many Spaniards who were; they were animated by the highest of ideals.

Some weeks passed, however,



before the little neighboring towns were subjugated. I have seen the faces of Moroccan troops returning from these local expeditions, with wounds that were produced by nothing less than bullets. The fascists never had an easy job.

Two months after the beginning of the civil war arrived the first Italians and the first Germans, almost simultaneously. Once I asked some Italians whether they had really come to Spain as volunteers. Their answer was a

smile of resignation. But an officer lurking nearby thrust his way forward and shouted, "Naturally, we have all come here through our own free will." At times I have actually heard German troops say they never understood that fighting was to be their purpose in Spain. In general, it is quite certain that the Italian "liberators" are not greatly respected, particularly since Guadalajara. The Germans are better regarded; the best hotels have been reserved for them and in many meetings the call "Heil Hitler" is heard. I cannot be sure whether this phrase is used ironically or otherwise.

Between the Phalangists and the Requetes there sometimes occur clashes in public, but here too I am not sure how dangerous these events are for Franco's cause. On the facades of Seville are posters with Mussolini's slogan: "The king is the symbol of the country."

On one occasion there were several acts of sabotage committed by railwaymen, with numerous executions resulting as usual.

Several times great preparations were made to celebrate the capture of Madrid. Each delay in the festivities was explained by

the announcement that Franco does not care to destroy the capital. Occasionally the police issue orders that balconies on the principal streets be decorated gaily for the sake of good appearances.

As a Swiss, I have not experienced any difficulties. But a Swiss passport is not always a talisman, as is proved by the case of our compatriot, Juan Duss. He was identified as a socialist because he had spoken a few words



at a meeting held prior to the rebellion. Franco's government expelled him with every member of his family. He was lucky. Were he a Spaniard he would have been promptly shot.

Another Swiss, one St. Gallois, is actually imprisoned in Saragossa.

It gets worse and worse. There is no taking of a placid breath in the Spain of Franco, no matter how often he announces that all is well."



Spanish women saving their home furnishings. Those who were able to move out of fascist territory in time took with them their home necessities.

"El Guerrillero"—Underground Fighter Against Fascism"

A Letter From a Comrade Active On The Extremaduran Front Describes Guerilla Warfare.

Dear J. L.

In the Extremaduran sector, especially in the province of evidence of the continual and heroic partisan warfare being carried on behind the fascist lines is obvious. This guerilla fighting plus the deliberate and organized sabotage carried on by the Spanish workers there is playing a major role in defeating Franco and his German and Italian allies.

The hardships these guerrilleros undergo is terrific. One seldom hears of their exploits; they are truly the unsung heroes of the war. Living on little more than olives, they carry on work so effectively in Franco's territory that he must keep a large police unit of Italians and Moors at all times.

The other day a youngster fifteen years old came into town driving a hundred head of cattle before him. He had driven them forty kilometers over the mountains, walking two days and two nights. Working for a rich fascist in the enemy held section of this boy planned carefully to get the cows into Loyalist territory. By himself, with nothing more than a sling and some rocks, he herded the animals over the front. The lad is alone in the world, his brother having been shot by the enemy.

Last night I stood guard with a young Spanish soldier who fought for a year in the mountains around He says the fascists are afraid to come into the highlands, knowing it is a stronghold of the guerrilleros. This young soldier walked to the Portugal border, then to a waterfront town. There he contacted the Socorro Rojo — in Portugal — and was hid on a French boat by some longshoremen and sailors. He showed me the note given him by the Socorro Rojo. It asks all anti-fascists to aid the young man in his attempt to get back to Loyalist Spain. He is here now, on the southern front, ready for the attack that will take back his home town from the fascist hands. He tells of large battles that he took part in when the guerrilleros swept out of the hills and raided fascist garrisons railroad depots and supply concentrations.

To meet the comrades who actually work in the fascist lines is next to impossible. When they come back to Loyalist territory with information, they never expose themselves. However, I managed to contact one of these fellows and I want to try to give you a true picture of this comrade and his work.

For the sixth time I have come to the little vine-joint for my meeting with the guerrilleros. On all the previous occasions my Spanish friend has apologized for not bringing him, explaining that it was necessary to employ every precaution because of the nature of the work behind fascist lines.

At one of the tables a group of campesinos are singing. The fat fellow, whose well-fed paunch is singular in these times, is singing a flamenco, his Cyrano nose going a deep purple as he tries to hit the difficult plaintive timbale notes of the song.

My Spanish friend enters with a companion dressed in black corduroy. They join me and we order another bottle of wine. The comrade in black corduroy hardly looks like a guerrillero. He appears soft and timid. However, one cannot tell.

My Spanish friend removes my doubts by apologizing again for failing to bring the guerrillero, telling me how careful these comrades must be, especially the type he wants me to talk with, one who works openly in fascist territory. Of course, I know this. We are less than twenty five kilometers behind the lines, and the mountainous region of the southern front gives many opportunities to fascist spies. There are

times when one hears evidence of the lying propaganda of Franco's agents.

So again I forget my guerrillero, and we discuss everything from "mujezas" to international politics.

After about an hour of conversation we go from the dimly-lit vine joint into the dark street. As I turn to leave my companions and return to the barracks, the comrade in black corduroy grasps



Above is shown a fascist officer leading a group of peasants to their death for defending their Republic. Below can be seen how the peasant in the rebel zone is forced to work under the watchful eye of his master.



underground as does any Party worker in Germany. On my pad I have written the name of a mountain where a band of guerrilleros hide. I have written that a fascist soldier gets one peseta a day on the front, fifty centimos behind the lines, and that a peasant gets three pesetas a day for his labor. That in this sector Spaniards pressed into service by Franco are closely guarded by Italians and Moors; that the Spanish boys shoot most their bullets in the air, and desert in bands. This desertion-business is no news to me. I have seen them come in by the truck-load.

I have written down that the publicity given the guerrilleros' activities now is nil for good reasons. This young hero himself has blown up a number of trains on the other side. I have written of a sector in the fascist rearguard where the fighting is organized: where the combined refugees and guerrilleros sweep down from the hills and wage pitched battles.

In the mountains, as well as among the peasants on the other side, the intrepid guerrillero finds friends, food and hiding. They are his own people, and shelter him from a common enemy. Most of the food in fascist held Spain is imported; it goes to the foreign mercenaries.

"How old are you?"

"Twenty-seven."

"I'm twenty seven, too." We laugh.

"We are both Communists," he says, "yet I cannot be confidential with you. I regret it deeply. But it is impossible. I am under the strictest discipline."

His eyes go to my writing pad again. Tearing out the sheets I have used, I rip them in half.

"You might walk out into the street," he continues, "and someone gets a hold of this." He tears his sheets into tiny bits.

On the papers I have written many other interesting and important things. But they must be forgotten until some day in the future—and I would like to see that day—when the fecund fields of..., now lying fallow because of fascism, will bloom again with a new vigor under a Free Republic of Spain.

S. P.



Refugees from fascist territory (above) on their arrival on the Republican side. The peasant (below) on Loyal soil, liberated from the oppressive conditions of the past years, is now moving forward to greater collectivisation.

my elbow and leads me in the other direction.

We enter an adobe house where two men and a woman are sitting at a table eating. The peasant in black corduroy loads me down with figs, nuts and bread until my pockets are so full I can hardly walk. Then the woman insists that I sit down to eat. And now the peasant begins to pour rich, ruby, Andalusian wine into me.

Around the table there is a warm, delicious atmosphere of home. I drink it all in with a nostalgia accentuated by a year of war.

I tell them about America, its heavy and light industries, and its labor movement, and its government. As I rise to go, my Spanish friend, dramatically, in the inimitable way of southern Spaniards, with a sweeping gesture of his hand, says:

"El guerrillero".

Surprised, I turn to meet the honest blue eyes of a little fellow at the end of the table. He smiles nervously. He is a characteristic looking fellow, blue eyes bleached by long living in the open, a sensitive rubicund face, sharp aquiline nose, teeth and high cheekbones.

Anywhere but here, the introduction would have been stogy. But the dramatic quality of the southern Spaniards is as real as their high mountains, which look like theatre props, with gauze clouds hanging about the peaks.

"Sit down, sit down", I say, "we'll talk." And I pull a boner by throwing a writing pad on the table. The guerrillero fidgets.

"I'm under a very strict discipline," he says. "I should not be doing this. I am ordered to speak to no one."

"You only need tell me general things."

My Spanish friend is bending over my other ear, firing words so rapidly that my head begins to grow dizzy. "Despacio, despacio, camarada."

Then through the vapor of "vino" it begins to dawn on me what they are trying to put across, that I have made a faux pas. The young guerrillero works as much

1937—YEAR OF RESISTANCE & VICTORIOUS OFFENSIVES

Jarama, Guadalajara, Brunete, Córdoba, Quinto, Belchite & Teruel

ON TO FINAL VICTORY — 1938!

"HOGAR DE NIÑOS"

Soldiers of the XI Brigade Maintain A Home for Children who are Victims of War

The achievements of the International Brigades on the battle fields perhaps tend to obscure the work of peace and friendship that they are performing at the same time. No where does it appear so clearly as in their concern for the children of Spain. Despite all other preoccupations, the volunteers are proceeding with a campaign to increase the number of children's homes they are maintaining. Already there are several — in Murcia, Madrid, Valencia and elsewhere. As time goes on there will be more.

Several hundred little Spaniards are wards of the International Brigades, but the political commissariat has found that the men are eager to enlarge this form or aid. A specific plan is under way to establish a home, fully supported, for the young sons and daughters of Spanish comrades killed in action with units of the International Brigades. The existing homes will also continue. For anti-fascists, determined that the world shall be free and peaceful and equal for all, believe that "who has the youth has the future." They also know that these homes have proved themselves to be among the worthiest contributions that can be made to a people defending with their lives the Republic they created with their votes.

As in so many other things, the German comrades pioneered with

these havens for little Spanish boys and girls. They founded the first one last spring and called it the "Ernst Thaelmann Kinderheim", fittingly named for that great champion of the rights of Germany's people and their children. It is exclusively the self-assumed responsibility of the 11th Brigade. All costs are paid by the brigade and its several battalions, and the funds are supplemented by extra contributions given by individual members of that brigade. Sixty Spanish children are completely supported in the home. They receive food, clothing, bed, and education. They also receive a companionship that endeavors to be a substitute for the parents many of these children have lost.

MEMORABLE STOUT

The horrors of the war are mitigated for them, but the realities of it exist all around them. The beautiful park in which the home lies is only a few kilometers outside of Madrid, and sometimes the heavy siege guns pounding the city with futile hatred carry their thunder to the youngsters' ears. La Moraleja, which is the name of the park, has a profound sentimental value for the men of the 11th Brigade. For it was there that they came and rested and reorganized in between the bitter, fateful, early battles when Madrid's destiny



The Kids line up for candy.

hung in the balance. What better shelter for innocent victims of fascism than the place hallowed by memories of the shock battalions named for "Ernst Thaelmann", "Edgar Andre", and "Commune of Paris"?

In charge of the home is a lieutenant of the brigade, who lost his right leg last winter at Guadalajara. Formerly a school master in Germany, he limps busily around the grounds and through the halls, making sure that the desires of his comrades at the front are carried out—that these adopted sons and daughters grow up strong, clear-eyed and eager-hearted. Full of the affection the children express with their every gesture, he supervises their routine with care. The age of the kids ranges from four to fourteen. Their food is good, their sleep is long, their clothes are clean, their bodies are healthy from sun, air,

exercise and hygiene. Needless to say, their schooling is sound, thorough and broad — in accordance with the new educational norms of the People's Front Government which is making Spain's school system one of the most progressive and scientific in all Europe.

COLLECTIVE WORK

This transformation of La Moraleja, once the palatial summer retreat of the immensely wealthy Marquesa Maria de Cubas-Herise, is symbolical of the democratic uses to which the former citadels of privilege are being put. One of the most basic and fundamental purposes the International Brigades are fighting for as part of the Spanish People's Army is brought out in the fact that the staff of the home is fully collectivized. Cooks, gardeners, teachers, laundresses, they all share in the responsibility of protecting the welfare of the sixty children. The contrast is sharpest in the case of several of these same workers once employed by the expropriated lords and masters of the estate. What they previously did as humble servitors of the haughty rich, they now perform as fellow-workers and friends of the little ones who need them.

The head teacher is a Spanish girl, mother of two children in the home, whose husband was killed in action at Carabanchel in November 1936. She feels a bond with the 15th Brigade, for her brother lost his life last February as a member of one of our battalions. Another brother had been killed in the street-fighting of 1934. She is a trained teacher, giving her pu-



Comrade Louis, wounded Director of the Home, taking a walk with some of the children.

pils lessons in various subjects. But perhaps the chief lesson she teaches by sheer force of example; it is courage.

KIDS LEARN COURAGE

And the children learn courage. They learn numerous things -- from music to arithmetic. They can sing the songs of their native provinces, and are familiar with the folk chants of Bavaria, the home of their supervisor. The older ones assist in the accounting and keeping of records, for income and expenditure are both considerable. Their talents are evoked



LA MORALEJA

by individual attention, and the results in drawing, designing the wall newspaper, gardening and sewing are extremely gratifying. Their lives are filled with truth and culture and as much happiness as orphans and lost waifs can know. Thus their courage grows deep, and they do not forget the enemies who have brought them disaster.

One boy of twelve is determined to be an aviator. The fascists bombed his "pueblo" out of existence, and he wants the power of a plane in his hands to revenge his father and mother slain in the raid. Another plans to be a tank driver. To him a tank is the ma-



"It's going to be cold this winter, boys. Let's start a bonfire."

ximum instrument of terror. He saw several bearing down on his village in one of the early battles near Madrid, saw the destruction they grind out, and wants to turn the tables on the enemy.

Among the girls the ambitions also vary. Most of them obey the natural impulse of hoping to become nurses. A few want to be teachers. One of them who has developed a distinct artistic talent is eager to paint propaganda posters.

Meanwhile they dance and sing and grow up. Visitors come to them from many places. Government officials, Spanish newspapermen, foreign delegations, people from the vicinity -- they come from different points of view and for different purposes. They all share the same feeling of gratification at the happy life these children lead under the guidance of their International father-friends. Such visits are always welcome and stimulating to the young hosts. But they reserve their greatest enthusiasm for the members of what they call their own brigade. A spontaneous storm of greeting and affection is given to them whether they arrive individually or in groups.

Many 11th Brigade soldiers spend part of their leave at La Moraleja. They insist upon it, and arrangements have been made to accommodate them. Wounded men in hospitals in or near Madrid demand the same right to enjoy the intimate company of their adopted children. Almost without exception, these men leave a substantial donation for the home on their departure. Perhaps that is why there is such a comfortable balance in the bank, sufficient to cover not only the normal needs but emergencies if they should arise.

Luigi Gallo, Commissar Inspector of the International Brigades, paid a visit to the home recently. His words there explain the motives of the men who established this haven. "The International comrades", he said, "are mostly married men, who have left behind in other countries children like these. Here, in Spain, they feel as if they belong to the country, because it is defending the liberty of all countries. They therefore want to do for the Spanish children what they cannot, for the time being, do for their own. They love and care for the Spanish children, because in them their thoughts of others far away are embodied."

M. M.

CABINET MEMBERS

The "Gazette" of December 11, 1937, announced the following change in the Cabinet:

Don Mariano Ansó has been appointed Minister of Justice. He is a member of the Left Republican Party, which now has two representatives in the Cabinet.

Señor Irujo, the retiring Minister of Justice, remains in the Cabinet as Minister without Portfolio. He is a Basque Nationalist.

The Cabinet is now composed as follows:

Prime Minister, Finance, Economy:

DR. JUAN NEGRIN.....(Socialist.)

Foreign Affairs:

DR. JOSE GIRAL.....(Left Republican.)

National Defence:

INDALECIO PRIETO.....(Socialist.)

Justice:

MARIANO ANSO.....(Left Republican.)

Interior:

JULIAN ZUGAZOITIA.....(Socialist.)

Education and Health:

JESUS HERNANDEZ.....(Communist.)

Agriculture:

VICENTE URIBE.....(Communist.)

Communications, Transport and Public Works:

BERNARDO G. DE LOS RIOS.....(Republican Union.)

Labor and Social Welfare:

DR. JAIME AYGUADE.....(Catalan Left.)

Minister without Portfolio:

MANUEL IRUJO.....(Basque Nationalist.)

MARIANO ANSO

Mariano Ansó, the new Minister of Justice, was born in Pamplona on January 21, 1899.

He was elected for the first time in the civic elections of April 12, 1931, which brought about the fall of the monarchy, and became the first Republican mayor of Pamplona.

He was elected deputy for Navarre to the Cortes Constituyentes. He was secretary of the Cortes for two years.

Previously he had been im-

prisoned under the dictatorship of General Berenguer for leading the republican uprising in Navarre in December 1930. (This was simultaneous with the declaration of the Republic in Jaca by Galan and Hernández.)

In February 1937 he was elected deputy for the province of Guipúzcoa. He is a member of the Left Republican Party.

When the Negrin Cabinet was formed in May 1937 he became Under-Secretary for Justice and now he becomes Minister of the same department.



Girls making warm clothes for the soldiers at the front.

HOT SPOT IN QUINTO

Taking a town is no joke, even when you have as good as got it. Fighting up the streets is the most nerve-racking stage of an offensive. Every window is a potential danger-point.

Comrade G. tells the following story of the taking of Quinto. The main defence lines of the village had been penetrated and a temporary Headquarters established in one of the outlying blockhouses, when an officer came hurriedly in to report that he had found some abandoned fascist camions. A camion is a valuable acquisition. Comrade G. and a few men went out with him to get the trucks driven in.

They arrived too late. Another Brigade had established the nine points of possession, and there was no arguing. Instead, they went in search of others. It was a dan-



On the look-out.

gerous expedition; there were fascists in the village still, but nobody knew where they were. A noise behind a door was enough to make them throw a bomb into the house and blow the inside of it out.

At sight of a camion standing by a crossing, the two leaders ran towards it shouting, with bombs in their hands. They had a few yards to go when machine-guns opened up on them, and G.'s companion fell with a bullet through his head. G. jumped over his body and dashed into a yard that opened off the road. The rest of the party squeezed into doorways and recesses down the street. Fire from two machine-guns crossed, and chipped the walls on either side.

G. now found himself in a difficult position. The yard was overlooked by windows of which he knew too little to trust. On one side was the debris of a half-ruined building; facing it, a house that had escaped the shells. The doors of this house stood open;

G. could see into the nearer rooms. He observed a table with cloth and crockery; a calendar on the wall; furniture and objects casually placed, as if the house had been left by its occupants a few minutes before. A door led into a side room. In G.'s own words, darkness looked out of it. Something more formidable might be looking out of the darkness.

Under circumstances like these, small objects impress themselves strangely on the mind, and minutes seem to stand still. There was no movement in the house; the only living thing was G.'s own fancy of death watching him. The more he stared in, the nearer this fancy seemed to come. He feared the stillness more than anything. Steps led down to a cellar. G. already knew something about the underground communications of Quinto, which linked the cellars in a subterranean network. At any minute, for all G. could know, someone might jump up from those steps.

He crouched under the wall of the house and called to the men who were sheltering down the street to get a tank up. A tank could clear out the machine-guns. Meanwhile he asked them to talk to him. It kept up his spirit. They called across to him every few minutes. He hardly dare answer them, in case his voice should attract someone's attention. He found some tobacco dust in his pocket, and made a cigarette. It smoked with difficulty and had a bad taste. He threw it away.

The tank arrived. Unable to turn, it had backed up the street, and now jammed itself against the wall so that it could move neither way. Its gun roared in the narrow space, but the machine-guns continued to reply. Every shot from the tank shook pieces down from the wall beneath which he was sheltering. He picked up the end of his cigarette and tried it again. He crouched there, he said, for two or three hours.

At length he decided he would have to risk everything and get out of this trap. The ruined house seemed to offer him his best chance. He began crawling over the debris on his stomach, moving very slowly with a sharp eye on the staring windows.

Something beside him went off with a roar that seemed louder than the loudest aerial bomb. He froze against the rubble, knowing nothing, mind and body dead. He had startled a cat, which jumped

WINGS OVERHEAD

Over Brunete came the sound
Of black wings crawling up the sky;
The soldier crouched against the ground
With straining limbs till they went by.
He heard the bombs sing down the air,
He felt them land, and everywhere
The earth in an advancing line
Rose up. The soldier said "This time".
This time he laughed at what he said,
And stretched his body to the heat;
The sun alone was overhead
And warmed the terror out of it.

Now, when the thin December gleam
Is driven off the sky by snow
And breath hangs in the air like steam,
The soldier on the plain below
Hears the familiar song of hate
And stoops behind the parapet.
When the black wings have passed beyond
He pulls his blanket closer round,
Grins at the younger man, who tries
To catch his courage from his eyes.
"We'll bring them all down bye and bye,
And then", he says, "they'll never come."
The young man, looking at the sky,
Sees only white wings of the storm.

M. TOMALIN

Chicago Correspondent Expelled by the Nazis Speaks Of I. B. in Paris

The International Brigades have never consisted of more than 15,000 men, while Italian troops sent to Franco number around 120,000, according to Edgar A. Mowrer, noted foreign correspondent of the "Chicago Daily News", who was expelled from Hitler Germany for telling the truth. He has personally verified these figures. Other observers agree with their accuracy, he said.

Moreover, he said, the Internationals are genuine volunteers—every single one—who fight for Republican Spain because of their ideals and feelings. They were not subjected to any other influence in coming to Spain.

Speaking recently at the Home of American Students in Paris, Mr. Mowrer also said that victory for the rebels is an absolute impossibility. But if it were, France would be gravely menaced. With an enemy government at the Pyrenees, France would have to consider seriously the withdrawal of her promises to assist Czecho-Slovakia.



SPAIN'S SECOND WINTER AT WAR

(Excerpts from an article in "Pravda" by M. Koltzov.)

The rearguard of Republican Spain is fully capable of sustaining its army and of continuing to do so during the entire winter and beyond that. The only thing needed to accomplish this is organization and unity among all anti-fascists.

The agricultural season has produced a harvest superior to that of the preceding year in almost all crops. Livestock, however, has been used up in great quantities. But to balance the situation, the breeding of poultry and rabbits has been greatly augmented. This

For months there has been discussion of a plan to create a central purchasing agency for the syndicates. It is not yet in existence. Meanwhile, syndicates, mills and even individual merchants send agents into the rural districts to make purchases for them. They do so without a controlling plan. From this arises the enormous difference in prices. In Valencia, for example, the prices for meat and vegetables are higher than in Madrid. Supplying foodstuffs to Madrid is much more difficult, but the people there buy with greater care and do not tolerate speculation.

FARMERS AIDED

Wheat and flour prices have increased 35. to 40 percent since the beginning of the war. Nevertheless, the former prices for baked bread have been maintained in the cities. This is a basic consideration by the workers, and the Government has accordingly granted a special subsidy for the purpose.

The Minister of Agriculture has extended all possible assistance to the farmers during the whole course of the war. He has apportioned credits of tens of millions of pesetas in order to secure for Republican Spain an increase of cultivated land. He has proceeded also to cancel arrears of debts and taxes.

In the villages, even in those situated in the war zone, the farmers have a perfect understanding of what they have won in their fight against the fascists and reactionary landlords. They lack many things, of course, particularly sugar, gasoline and tobacco. But they eat well, feel responsible for large areas of land, and no longer bend the knee to an arrogant master or brutal overseer. They are conscious of the part they are playing in the war, they are enabling the cities to do their work, they cultivate their fields and constantly increase their ploughing.

NEW ACHIEVEMENTS

Precisely the opposite is taking place in the region dominated by the fascists. There the farmers neglect their fields, often doing so purposely.

The working class of the cities has suffered more than the farmers and this winter will continue

to bear a greater burden of the war. The workers faced the first attacks of fascism, resisting heroically on the barricades of Madrid and Barcelona. The workers fight in the vanguard of the Republican Army; workers also are forging victory in the rear. It is difficult to overestimate the success achieved by the Spanish workers in these past months. In spite of privations and in spite of frequent acts of bureaucracy and sabotage on the part of government and trade union officials, the workers have proved that they possess great patience and tenacity, immense enthusiasm in their labor and plenty of initiative and ingenuity. The attitude of the workers is the chief reason for the great growth of Spain's war industry, which in spite of all its defects, works better every day.

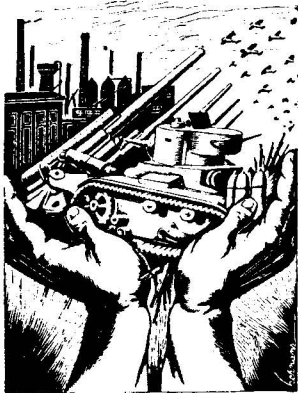
Some of its achievements cannot be praised too highly. These include the manufacture of pursuit planes of the most modern type, together with the motor; the production of automatic machine

guns, a job which was organized in three months; the manufacture of complicated projectors for anti-aircraft defense; the output of rapid-fire automatic weapons. The fact that tens of thousands of artillery projectiles have been produced daily in improvised factories must receive special mention.

The workers of Spain, with the working class in the lead, are ready and willing to continue fighting for all they are entitled to have. The only thing they need for victory is good organization, order and discipline.

College Girls Boycott Japanese Goods

The College of New Rochelle, conducted by Catholic Ursuline nuns, is boycotting Japanese-made silk stocking. The student body consists of 734 young American women of Catholic faith, and many are already wearing cotton or coarse-weave hosiery. The boycott was initiated by the Peace Club of the college.



increase in the future meat supply is to be found not only in the country, but also in the large cities, especially Valencia. Chicken coops are seen on the roofs and balconies of almost every house.

NEED ORGANIZATION

Generally speaking, the farms of Spain, aided only by partial importation of wheat and meat, are prepared to supply food to the army, the working class and the city populations as a whole. It should be borne in mind, also, that the farmers and their families themselves are better fed today than formerly.

The chief need is for good organization, but that does not yet fully exist. The delivery of provisions is made in the rural villages without any method. The Government pursues a just and careful policy in all matters concerning the farmers. It defends their interests strictly, and prohibits every kind of levy and monopoly. But the organizations of the large cities have not yet learned the best way to handle the farmer's produce.



Madrid, completely fortified against the fascist aggressors.

XIV BRIGADE CELEBRATES YEAR UNDER FIRE

With formal ceremony the 14th International Brigade celebrated the anniversary of its baptism under fire. One year ago, on December 23, the brigade went into action for the first time, fighting at Lopera and successfully detaining the fascist advance toward Jaen, key city on the Cordoba front. Since then the brigade has made its fame secure at Guadalajara, Jarama, Cuesta de la Reina and other vital battle fields.

The victory at Teruel, which coincides with the anniversary, was featured and emphasized. Luigi Gallo, commissar inspector of the International Brigades, said "We made a promise to stop the fascists. That promise has been kept. Today we can also rejoice over Teruel, which proves that the fascists cannot win".

With pride and significance it was pointed out that the conquest of Teruel had been achieved by all-Spanish brigades. The International volunteers had not been called upon to aid in the whole series of fascist-crushing operations. Colonel Dumont, commander of the 14th Brigade since the beginning, said "We are here, representing the workers of France. It has been our honor to fight for a year at the side of the Spanish people, and to continue fighting until fascism is exterminated from their land. At the present moment we may feel especially glad, for in the fall of Teruel, we know that Spanish troops themselves won the victory".



XV Brigade Patrons visit International Brigade headquarters in Madrid. Photographed above is a group of F. U. E. students of the Lagasca Institute together with members of the I. B. Anglo-American delegation in Madrid. Not all of the Anglo-Americans appear in this picture; the editor of the Volunteer for Liberty who would be next to Comrade Tarancon on the lower level cut himself out of the ensemble, not because of false modesty, but in order to make room for this caption.

WHAT'S IN A BEARD?

Beards were introduced by Samson, an ingenious Easterner who put over the slogan "Hair for Strength" and made big money. Like other speculators he wrecked his career on a woman and ended his life in an orgy of sordid suicide.

The superstition still survives. There has been a recent outbreak of it among the International Brigades, and many volunteers are now suffering from a rush of hair to the chin. This is due to lack of proper precautions in the early stages. It would not have happened if they had carried razors in their packs, for application as soon as the first symptoms appeared.

The epidemic has already got a strong hold, and the results are to be deplored. When the chin is attacked by a beard, it gradually disappears and is followed by the upper lip and cheekbones. In time the victim becomes unrecognizable.

As the disease advances, it becomes increasingly difficult to insert food into the mouth, owing to the invisibility of the orifice. It is a pathetic sight to see men struggling through the follicles with food in their spoons, unable to maintain their sense of direction. Much of the food is lost on the way, and tends to attract hyenas and other animals that eat

what is left behind by larger beasts of prey.

A rumour has been put about that the Ministry of Fortifications is encouraging the growth of beards. This rumoring is the work of provocateurs. If it were possible to grow metal on the chin, there might be some advantage in every man carrying his own barbed wire entanglement into action. As it is, it can be of no service, and is liable to trip him up.

By the time he has as much hair on the bottom of his head as on the top, a few bombardments are enough to make him forget which end is which. Some volunteers even reach the stage when they carry as heavy a load on their chests as over their shoulders, with the result that they lose their sense of back and front, and advance backwards instead of forwards. Nor can they grumble if a fit of the blues goes to the beard and makes them unpopular with the women.

The fight to exterminate this disease is likely to be long and arduous. Since the days of Samson, the beard complex has sunk deep in the human psyche. The human psyche is a dreadful thing. It is pronounced "pizitch" and lies somewhere between reality and delirium tremens. Once the beard reaches the bottom of that, the case is hopeless.

STEPS ARE TAKEN TO FREE AMERICANS FROM FRANCO JAILS

Twenty-four American comrades are prisoners in the hands of the fascists. Most of them were captured last February during the Jarama battles. The others were taken in later actions. Their fate is unknown, but there is reason to believe that they are alive behind fascist lines. Congressmen Jerry J. O'Connell of Montana and John T. Bernard of Minnesota have introduced a bill requesting the State Department to investigate the actual situation of these imprisoned American comrades.

While action now depends upon legislative and diplomatic proceedings, it is recalled that members of the British Battalion, taken prisoner in early February, were subsequently released and repatriated over the fascist part of the border. Among the American prisoners are the following comrades: Edward Freed, Louis Ornitz, George Leap, Walter Grant, Leo Targoff, William Parks, William Hathaway, Everett Hobbs, Bernard Cohen, Steve Dabelko, Donald A. Boynton, Albert Rosenberg, Henry Lyons, Leo Turner, George Stark, Manuel Lizairago and Dino Neri. The homes of their families are in all parts of the United States.

IRISH LABOR STEPS AHEAD IN U. S.

The recent election, on the American Labor Party ticket, of Michael Quill as Councilman for the Bronx, marks a new phase in the history of the Irish in the United States. Hitherto Irish exiles, unskilled workers in the main,

have been dominated by Tammany Hall, which could always depend on their vote, giving in return minor favors and concessions to reactionary Irish and Irish-American leaders. To Quill and other workers goes the credit for smashing the grip of Tammany. Organizing among the rank and file of transport workers, they formed the Transport Workers' Union, countering all the legal and extralegal intimidation of the bosses, until, this spring, they won not only recognition of their union, but better working-hours and better pay. John L. Lewis, chairman of the C. I. O. with which the union is affiliated, was present at the historic conference at which the bosses admitted defeat.

Quill, still limping from a bullet-wound received during the Anglo-Irish War, is a foremost supporter of the Spanish people in their struggle against fascism. He is a sturdy young Irishman, typical of the Irish Republican and Labor movement.

COLLECTIVES TO SHARE EXTRA PROFITS

The Official Gazette of the Catalan Government on November 21, 1937 published a decree of Juan Comorera, Counsellor of Economy, regulating the distribution of the excess profits of collectivized industries.

These profits shall be distributed as follows:

- a) 50 % shall go to the Bank of Industrial Credit of Catalonia.
- b) 15 % shall be devoted to social needs of a collective nature.
- c) 15 % shall be placed at the disposal of the workers who shall decide its destination at a general assembly.
- d) The remaining 20 % shall be kept as a reserve fund or shall be devoted to improvements, renewal of machinery, etc., in the proportion agreed upon by the general assembly.

The decree is dated November 17, 1937.